



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	223770
<b>Inspection date</b>	20 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Margaret Webster
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Childminding

## ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1990. She lives with her husband, two grown up children and her eight year old child in rural village in Shropshire. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five all day and three children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler group.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted well through daily routines. Children's understanding of personal hygiene is developed from an early age as the childminder encourages them to wash their hands after using the toilet, playing outside and before eating.

Sick children are well cared for. Written permission from parents for administering medication is obtained and all accident records are maintained. The childminder ensures all children are protected from illness and infection because she does not admit any children who have been ill within the last twenty four hours, this prevents the spread of cross-infection. She has a selection of outdoor toys and equipment available in the garden and the visits to the local park enable children to participate in a range of outdoor activities which encourage their physical development.

The childminder has a good understanding of healthy nutritious diets. She discusses children's eating plans and dietary needs with parents, who supply their own children's snacks and meals. The childminder supplies drinks of fresh water, milk and juice for the children throughout the day. She ensures that the children have enough food and drinks to enable them to grow and be healthy.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a warm, welcoming environment where they have sufficient space to play in comfort and safety with a good range of age-appropriate toys and equipment. The childminder is proactive in ensuring children are safe when she takes them out. For example, appropriate restraints are used for younger children when walking in the community and in the pushchair. Children's safety within the home is enhanced through the equipment which is in place and the procedures followed by the childminder, such as a safety gate on the stairs, fireguard and the premises being kept secure.

She is able to recognise the signs of abuse and neglect. Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a good understanding of child protection and where she would seek advice if she had any concerns. This knowledge and information protects the children and keeps them safe.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled within the homely environment. The childminder interacts with the children in her care, offering support and comfort. She encourages children's language development as she talks to them about the toys they are playing with and while they read books together. There is a wide selection of good quality toys and equipment available for a wide age range. The children are able to engage in a variety of art and craft and cooking

activities. Toys, activities and resources are organised when the children arrive at the setting. Younger children are taken to the local toddler group, this enables them to use a different range of toys and equipment and broaden their social skills. The childminder is familiar with the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Physical activities are encouraged in the childminder's outside play area and during visits to the local park on a regular basis where children are able to play ball games and use equipment such as a climbing frame, swings and a slide.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to develop an understanding and knowledge of the diverse society in which they live. The childminder has a good knowledge of different cultures and religions and the children are able to celebrate festivals through a variety of different art and craft activities and tasting different fruits from different countries. Through procedures which are shared and agreed with parents, the childminder ensures children's individual needs are met and that they are treated with equal concern and respect. Children are beginning to learn about their local community as they enjoy routine outings to the shops and the local park.

Currently there no children with special needs or children who speak English as a additional language attending the setting. The childminder has past experience and would work with the parents and other professionals to meet each child's individual needs. She has several cards and letters from satisfied parents expressing their thanks for the provision and service she is providing.

The childminder manages behaviour in a consistent manner, ensuring children understand about what is right and wrong, dependent on their age and stage of development. Information about the service, and how their child will be cared for is discussed with the parents which contributes to a good partnership with parents and ensures children's individual needs are met.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The children are settled and at ease within the appropriately organised surroundings. They are confident to make choices about their own activities and receive support from the childminder to help them feel secure. The childminder has not attended any short courses recently. However, she has sixteen years experience of working as a childminder. She has obtained an National Vocational Qualification Level 3 in childcare and she has a current first aid certificate. This knowledge and experience ensure the children are well cared for and that any accidents are dealt with correctly.

The required documentation and procedures which contribute to children's health, safety and well-being are in place and shared with parents.

Overall, children's needs are met.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that all policies provided to the parents included all elements as outlined in the National Guidance and Standards. She has introduced all policies and procedures and they are available in a folder for the parents information. All the required consent forms and documentation are in place and they meet the national standards. The introduction of these documents contributes to the safety and welfare of the children.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

## **THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE**

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### **WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?**

#### **The quality and standards of the care**

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- continue to attend further training to keep up-to-date with recent child care developments.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)