



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	201877
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 July 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Barbara Ann Bush
<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 1992. She lives with her husband, two adult children and two younger children aged ten years and five years in a rural location near to local amenities. The whole premises are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder has a pet, one cat.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding four children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder walks to schools and playgroups to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group, library and park with the minded children. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children learn about personal hygiene routines by washing their hands after outside play, playing with the family pet or using messy materials. General hints are given to the children to ensure they remember to be clean and tidy. Children are encouraged to be independent and take control for themselves and their surroundings.

Younger children can rest undisturbed, in a bedroom. Sleeping children are checked regularly by the childminder. Children benefit from the experience gained by the childminder when dealing with illness or any emergencies that may arise. Procedures have been put in place verbally with parents and the childminder is confident about her abilities to manage any situation concerning the children's welfare. Sufficient information is on file regarding the children's medical history, allergies and immunisations to ensure correct action is taken.

Children are offered regular meals, snacks and drinks throughout the day. Parents provide main meals and these are well balanced dishes, providing the main food groups for growth. Drinks are freely available and children are encouraged to take in fluids. The childminder is aware of children's preferences and any allergies that may affect them. Children enjoy light snacks that are nutritionally balanced with an emphasis on fruit rather than sugar based food. Children are learning good table manners and how to behave when eating together.

Children have opportunities for outside play in the garden, on walks and at the park. Children are able to visit large country parks, taking their bicycles to ride around. They are developing an awareness of their physical growth and general well-being.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into a safe and secure home that is organised to meet their needs during the day. Children enjoy using a range of toys and equipment appropriate for their stages of development. Equipment is maintained and cleaned therefore children are protected from injury and the spread of infection. Toys and books are stored at child height to enable their safe access and children can independently choose from the resources.

Visual risk assessments of the home undertaken by the childminder helps to safeguard children from potential hazards. They are further protected by steps taken to clear the garden of any dangers. Children are not familiar with the fire evacuation procedure and as yet have not practised the drill. House rules about jumping, climbing and running in the home are explained to the children and this prevents accidents from occurring. Children are also introduced to road safety measures and this ensures that they stay close to the childminder and do not run into the road.

The childminder has information regarding child protection procedures and has the contact numbers of the relevant agencies on file. Her understanding of the procedures protects the children's well-being.

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

The provision is good.

Children are allowed to make choices about their play and have the freedom to be spontaneous in the games that they take part in. They experience a varied day which includes trips outside of the home to playgroup and toddler club. Children's interest is stimulated by placing toys at their level to catch their eye and motivate their play. Children enjoy books and floor toys. The games they play initiate laughter and the childminder encourages conversation.

The children are encouraged to share, take turns and cooperate with others. Children enjoy creative play with paper and pens, time on the computer and quiet time just talking together. Children's language skills are extended through questions and the childminder's interest in their well-being. Children access a wide range of equipment to suit all ages and stages of development.

Children are given praise for their existing achievements and they are urged to play with a variety of toys. They have developed a bond with their carer, are reassured by her presence and display confidence when meeting strangers. Children receive consistent care as minder and parents work closely to ensure there is a united approach.

The childminder is caring for children under the age of three years, however as yet, she has not used ideas sourced in the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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

The provision is good.

Children are able to access toys and equipment reflecting other cultures and people with disabilities. The childminder has an understanding of the issues and feels confident about answering the children's questions and interest. Respect for each other is encouraged and discriminatory remarks are challenged. Boys and girls have equal access to play materials.

Children benefit from a clear behaviour policy agreed by the childminder and parents. Limits are set and as the children grow older they are introduced to the house rules and boundaries for behaviour outside of the home. Children's good behaviour is recognised and praised. They are developing increasing independence in organising their play, supported by the childminder's arrangement of the materials and equipment. Children are enabled to try new things and gain self-confidence. They learn to recognise their own needs effectively.

Children under three years are taken to a toddler group and trips out, to enable them to mix with a wider range of children and adults.

The childminder values good communication with parents to ensure that children's needs are met. She offers them regular feedback about the children's progress, making time to speak

with the parents each day. The new complaints process is not in place; with this process in place parent and minder can quickly resolve any concerns that may affect the care of the children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's enthusiasm for her work and the practical knowledge and experience she has gained over the past 14 years as a carer. She has completed a first aid course and keeps in touch with developments in the childcare field by reading relevant published articles. She is reflective of her own practice and identifies areas for improvement.

The childminder organises her time to ensure that she spends most of her working day involved with the children. They are given individual attention as ratios are adhered to at all times.

The children enjoy each other's company; they look forward to playing together.

Documentation regarding the children is kept confidential but is easily accessible for parents to share. Paperwork is generally in good order and updated from time to time.

Overall, children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was required to ensure that the garden was secure. On inspection the garden was enclosed and children are unable to leave the garden unsupervised. It was required that the childminder obtain written consent from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for the minded children. Forms are now on file.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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):

- devise and practise a fire evacuation drill with the children
- improve outcomes for children from birth to three years by using an approach in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework
- keep a record of complaints relating to the National Standards and any action taken.

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)