



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	112881
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 August 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Clare Moore
<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 satisfactory. 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 1997. She lives with her partner and three school age children in the village of Marchwood. The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding and also a first floor bedroom for sleeping. There is a secure garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children and is currently minding two children under three years of age. She walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends a Parent and Toddler Group on a regular basis.

The family has a pet cat.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well nourished through drinks, snacks and packed lunches that are provided by parents. The childminder supplements this with milk and water to drink to ensure children have plenty of fluids for their needs. Children have frequent opportunities to enjoy fresh air and exercise. They walk regularly to the school, go to the park and play in the garden where they use a range of equipment to climb, swing and slide. This helps them to keep fit and active and also gives them opportunities to refine and develop their physical skills.

Children are cared for in a home that is comfortable and clean. They find out about the importance of washing their hands and are helped as appropriate by the childminder. The childminder's procedures regarding hygiene and sickness help to prevent the spread of infections. Her knowledge of first aid and a well stocked first aid kit ensure treatment can be administered to minimise the impact of injuries.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children spend their time in a welcoming and secure environment. Risks to children are minimised with supervision, closed off stairs, safe storage of medicines and cleaning materials. There are planned fire safety evacuation procedures. However there is not yet a regular testing system to ensure that smoke detectors are in working order at all times.

Children find out about keeping themselves safe in the sun in summer through using sun creams, hats and making use of shaded areas. They become partners in keeping themselves safe on outings because the childminder encourages them to look and listen for traffic when crossing roads together. The childminder carries emergency contact details and a mobile phone on outings which ensures children can be assisted whenever necessary.

The childminder has a clear understanding of Child Protection procedures which helps to ensure that children's needs are met. She raises and discusses safety issues with children such as warning them when the cat is getting restless, that she might scratch if not left alone and explains about the signs to look out for.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy attending and selecting their activities. They can independently make choices from resources set out in the sitting room, for example they play with stacking beakers, a toy telephone, a bus complete with passengers and explore wooden puzzles. A child enjoys the closeness of sharing a book, sitting on the childminder's knee, looking and talking about the pictures and feeling the different textures. Children also have fun playing a game of 'hide and find' with a small doll in a beaker which promotes lots of smiles of surprise. Other interesting activities offered include play-doh, singing, rhymes and counting which help children to develop

their number and language skills. There is a variety of resources available, for example a well equipped play kitchen, play mobile fire station, zoo and dressing up clothes which gives children opportunities to develop their imagination.

Children are motivated to explore and try new skills because the childminder encourages them in a positive way and rewards them with praise. Children are happy and settled because the childminder knows them well and spends time with them talking and playing.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Individual needs of the children are carefully discussed with parents so that the childminder can settle them in and avoid disrupting familiar routines and comforts. This helps children to be confident and happy. Children are polite as the childminder is active as a role model for social conventions using words such as "please, thank you and sorry". Children are given opportunities to help to tidy away toys and are encouraged to take turns and share which helps them to socialise with others.

Children find out about aspects of diversity in the world around them because the childminder provides resources with positive images of gender, disability and culture which help to break down stereotypes.

There is a trusting partnership between the childminder and parents and regular informal exchange of information. Most aspects are covered when children start but some things such as what will happen if a child is not collected are omitted and parents are not yet informed about how to raise a complaint about the service.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Records are accurate, well ordered and meet the requirements. All the necessary insurances have been obtained and are current. Confidentiality is respected. The childminder has completed an Introduction to Childminding course and holds a current First Aid certificate.

The space available is organised so that children have access to a selection of toys and resources and there is suitable accommodation for sleeps, meals and snacks.

The childminder uses her time well and spends much of it playing with the children. There are clear regular routines to the day based around school runs, meals and sleeps. Permissions have been obtained from parents to cover hospital treatment so that appropriate action can be taken in the event of an emergency requiring hospital treatment.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to help children to learn to wash their hands, provide a range of resources reflecting positive images and request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

She now helps children to wash their hands when they are old enough, provides more resources and has permissions from parents to seek hospital treatment. This helps to ensure children are well cared for.

### **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 satisfactory. 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):

- ensure parents are informed about the procedure for making a complaint
- research the current advice from the fire department regarding the testing of smoke detectors and put this into practice to ensure they are in working order
- develop the system to ensure parents are fully informed about all aspects of the childminding service.

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)