



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	123462
<b>Inspection date</b>	25 October 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Tina Kelly
<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 has been registered since 1992. She lives with her husband and two adult children in a house in St Albans within walking distance of shops, schools and parks. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. Children do not generally access upstairs other than to use the family bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. There are no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under the age of eight years. At the time of inspection three children were being cared for, one was aged three years, the others were both five years old.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. Children learn about good personal hygiene through their daily routines. Older children are encouraged to be independent as they access the family bathroom upstairs, they know they need to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet.

Children's nutritional needs are met, the childminder is aware of their likes and dislikes as she discusses all aspects of the children's needs with their parents on a regular basis. The childminder has a sound understanding of good hygiene when preparing and storing food as she has attended a food hygiene course. Children make some choices about their snacks at lunch and tea times. They are offered healthy options, their tastes are developing and they are becoming aware of foods that are good for them. In their imaginative play with free access a good selection of play foods and kitchen utensils they talk about how to cook and serve foods, they offer pretend food to each other and say 'Have some fruit, it's yummy'

Children have opportunities for exercise on a daily basis as they walk to and from the nearby school, nursery and play group. They frequently stop off at the local park where children can develop their skills on age appropriate apparatus. Children also play and practise their physical abilities in the garden, they enjoy the see-saw, slide and a small trampoline.

Children's health is monitored and maintained as the childminder is aware of their personal needs and keeps records in line with the national standards.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure environment. Although caring for children over the age of three years the childminder is aware of potential hazards and ensures appropriate safety measures are in place to maintain the safety of the children at all times. Good quality of resources are stored at low level and are easily accessible to all children.

Children learn to keep themselves safe through their daily routines, they are reminded not to tread on toys as they may slip. When walking out in the community they are becoming aware of road safety issues. They know they must stop, they help in making decisions about when the road is clear. They learn through a range of experiences as they may use a crossing patrol or a zebra crossing so they are learning about different, safe ways to cross roads.

Children's well-being is monitored and maintained as the childminder keeps appropriate records with regards to accident and incidents. She has a sound understanding of child protection issues as she has attended a recent course on this important aspect of child care. Leaflets and contact numbers provided by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board are readily available.

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

The provision is good.

Children have many opportunities to access a wide range of toys and learning activities. The childminder is aware of the children's varied abilities, she adapts games to extend different aspects of their learning. Shape recognition and early writing skills are developed with the introduction of the 'magic' drawing board. Children take turns, they add to the joint picture, the older children giving instructions and assistance to the others. Their achievements are praised and the finished picture is shown to every one.

Children's imaginative play is well developed, they have easy access to a range of resources so they can extend their play ideas freely. Children are able to make choices about their play, they express themselves confidently and are selective in the decisions they make. Children are well supported as the childminder extends and develops their language and their understanding of the different games that are played. Children are co-operative and show great delight as they are asked to tidy away in preparation of new and exiting activities such as coloured dough and cutters.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are respected and valued in the setting. The childminder is very aware of the different needs of the children in her care. Their individual characteristics and preferences are recognised, older children who are cared for after school and term time only have activities adapted to ensure they are stimulated and interested. The childminder has strategies and documents in place to ensure all children reach their full potential and to meet their needs including cultural and special needs. Children are encouraged to develop their understanding of different cultures as the childminder offers opportunities and resources that extend their experiences of the wider world.

Children's good behaviour is reinforced with praise. Children are encouraged to share, to take turns and to co-operate as children of different ages play together, they are aware of the needs of others with the older children making allowances for the younger ones. Children learn good manners as they are reminded to take care as they play, to sit up the table when they eat, they are aware of the simple rules which reinforces good behaviour.

A strong relationship has developed between the childminder and the families that she cares for. Some arrangements have been in place for over five years, children continue to be cared for when they move onto attend junior school. Parents are kept informed about their children's routines as the childminder shares information on a regular basis. However, written information for parents does not inform them about the training the childminder has recently completed.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her busy routine around children attending full time school and varied arrangements based on part time care as younger children attend play groups and nursery

for various sessions during the week. Play space is arranged so children of different ages can play and access resources easily.

The childminder keeps the required documents to ensure children's individual needs are met. Children are cared for by appropriate adults, all members of the household have had the required checks. The childminder receives updated information from the early years development team, she is aware of training opportunities and has attended courses to develop her skills in running a childminding business, child protection and food hygiene.

Overall children's needs are met.

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

At the time of the last inspection the childminder was given two recommendations. The first was to ensure written permission was in place from parents to administer medication. Appropriate records are now in place and signed by parents to ensure they are fully aware of issues around their children's medication. The second recommendation was to ensure all documentation and records are consistent for all minded children. Contracts and information is in place for all children, including those over the age of eight years to ensure their individual needs are recognised and met.

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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.
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### **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):

- to continue to develop documents to keep parents informed about the childminding service and the training attended.

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)