



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	210042
<b>Inspection date</b>	30 October 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Julie Mary Preston
<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 1992. She lives with her daughter in Essington, Staffordshire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden area for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding five children on a part time basis including before and after school care. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends a local parent/toddler group. The family has a cat.

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 are cared for in a warm, clean home, where procedures implemented by the childminder help children learn the importance of staying healthy. Children develop a good understanding of hygiene practices through daily routine activities completed with the childminder. For example, discussions undertaken about brushing their teeth, keeping their hair tidy and good practice encouraged such as washing their hands before and after meals, after fussing the cat and after using the toilet. Individual flannels and regular toy cleaning help to minimise the risk of cross infection to children. However, children are exposed to potential cross infection when sleeping on the settee. The childminder has procedures identified for dealing with sickness, existing injuries, accidents and administration of medication.

Children understand the benefits of a healthy diet through discussion and activities undertaken with the childminder. She provides a range of meals and snacks for the children attending, encouraging them to have a healthy balanced diet. Regular access to drinks and snacks is provided as children require them throughout the day. The childminder works well in partnership with parents to meet children's individual dietary needs. She appropriately cooks, stores and serves meals to children who attend. This ensures individual dietary needs are met. The childminder has an awareness of good hygiene practices that she reflects within food preparation and storage.

Children enjoy a good range of activities that contribute to their good health. Regular physical activities help children develop physical skills and gain control of their bodies, for example, use of the rear garden area, visits to the local park, walks within the local environment and walks in the local countryside. Children are given opportunities to rest or sleep in line with parental wishes and individual sleep patterns.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder cares for children in a mostly safe and secure environment where she mainly identifies and minimises possible risks. However, children are exposed to minor risks in the lounge and kitchen, and this compromises children's safety. The childminder has implemented safety procedures that aim to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted, for example, by providing fire safety equipment, undertaking a risk assessment and by identifying nominated persons for collection of children. The childminder extends children's understanding of how to keep themselves safe, for example, she discusses road safety with children, how to deal with strangers and how to keep themselves safe by water. She aims to ensure children are safe both inside and outside the home. Procedures for outings help children extend their experiences through trips and outings undertaken. The home is well maintained and offers a welcoming environment for children to play comfortably with the selection of toys and equipment available.

The child-friendly environment allows children the opportunity to select activities from the range of toys, which are suitable for the age range of children attending. Toys are organised in storage boxes and chests within the playroom with the childminder providing a selection at child height.

The childminder has some understanding of child protection procedures that ensure children are protected from harm or neglect. She is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and is confident to report concerns. However, she is not up to date with new procedures or contact details. This means potential delays when reporting concerns.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, settled and show enjoyment of their time in the childminder's care. For example, children enjoy playing with electronic learning toys, looking at books and drawing. They are confident and make themselves at home. The children interact well with the childminder exhibiting a clear bond that leads to positive relationships and a sense of belonging. Children gain confidence to express their needs and wants with the childminder. She takes time to listen and make conversation with each child expanding on their individual interests well through discussion and questioning. For example, the childminder extends children's awareness of shape and form as they identify different silhouettes of objects.

Children experience a wide range of age-appropriate activities that promote development, encourage confidence, develop independence and promote self-esteem. For example, counting activities and nature walks where children look at the different features of nature. All children spend their time purposefully. For example, children enjoy creative activities and construction. Many of the activities provided are child-led with the childminder supporting and extending children's learning successfully. The childminder has a detailed understanding of each child who attends and their individual capabilities and requirements. This enables her to adapt and extend activities to ensure each child gains the most out of each activity they participate in. However, the childminder has limited knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework, which affects outcomes for children.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a good understanding of equal opportunities and special needs issues. All children are treated as individuals and their needs met. Resources and activities provide images of diversity and develop children's understanding of themselves and the wider world, for example, the childminder shares stories with children and they try foods from other countries to support this. This extends children's awareness of the wider world, promoting positive attitudes and increasing awareness of diversity and understanding of others.

Children are well behaved and the childminder encourages children to show care and concern for each other as she has effective procedures in place to manage children's behaviour. For example, she gives children time to think about their actions and explains the reasons why their

actions are not acceptable, implementing a consistent approach to manage children's behaviour by adhering to her written behaviour management policy that she shares with parents. Positive reinforcement and encouragement helps to build children's confidence and self-esteem. Children make themselves at home, happily settling themselves down and selecting activities and resources from the range provided.

The childminder has developed positive relationships with parents and works in partnership with them. Discussions are held with parents and children at the initial visits with settling-in arrangements identified to allow children time to become accustomed to their new environment. In addition ongoing daily discussions with parents are undertaken to ensure individual children's needs are identified and met. The childminder ensures parents are fully aware of her procedures and how children will be cared for by providing a range of written policies and procedures that she shares with parents during initial visits. However, the childminder is not aware of the new complaints procedure and parents are not made aware of how to contact the regulator. This means potential delays and inconsistencies with complaints processes.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder and her household meet the relevant training and suitability requirements. Children are comfortable and make themselves at home within the setting. The environment provided both inside and outside the home enables children to be confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Verbal and written policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Information is shared daily with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities and well-being. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. Required documentation is in place and is accurately completed and maintained. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At her last inspection the childminder agreed to keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children. This is now in place and accurately completed. She also agreed to address some safety issues that are no longer applicable as she has moved premises.

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

Since 1 April 2004 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.

## 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):

- minimise the risks of cross infection for children sleeping on the settee by providing individual linen for children to lie on
- ensure children are not exposed to hazards posed by the fire grate or access to aerosol cans
- gain awareness of the Local Safeguarding Children's Boards guidance and procedures including contacts
- gain awareness of the new complaints processes and ensure parents are provided with details of Ofsted's address and contact numbers
- gain an awareness of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and implement this within practice to support children in their earliest years.

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)