



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	210387
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 October 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Ann Winifred Harrison
<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 1998. She lives with her husband and two children aged 10 and 12 years in Great Wyrley. The dining room, play room and downstairs toilet are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five years and two children over five years on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to collect children. The childminder attends local toddler groups on a regular basis. The family have two rabbits.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Effective hygiene routines ensure that babies and children's health is protected. For example, the childminder wipes the high chair after each use and ensures that the toys and equipment are clean and safe. The childminder has a good understanding of medication and accident recording. Records are in place and are well maintained. Procedures in case of illness and who to contact in case of emergencies are fully detailed. This information helps to ensure appropriate action is taken to care for children who become ill. Children learn the importance of personal hygiene through daily routines. They know they need to wash their hands before eating and after visiting the toilet. They also know if they touch the pets they must wash their hands to prevent infections. Older children are encouraged to access the bathroom on their own, this promotes their self care and independence.

Children and babies benefit from a healthy diet. The childminder works with parents to ensure their meals are nutritious. They are offered drinks throughout the day and a good selection of healthy meals and snacks which include sandwiches, fresh fruit, fish and pasta. The childminder adheres to parents wishes and any special dietary needs are met.

Children enjoy a range of activities which contribute to their good health. Indoor and outdoor activities help them develop control of their bodies, for example, children go on daily walks and they can play in the garden riding bikes and playing football. They are taken to the local park and in poor weather they are taken to an indoor play centre. This helps children to make good progress with their physical skills. The childminder is beginning to use 'Birth to three matters' framework to plan for physical play for babies and young children.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment where the childminder aims to ensure possible risks are identified and minimised through comprehensive risk assessments. This means that children are able to move around safely and independently. The childminder monitors access to the premises at all times and precautions are taken to ensure the outdoor play area is safe and secure. The child friendly environment allows children to independently select activities from the range of toys which are suitable for the age range of children attending. Toys are organised in storage boxes at child height to allow easy access and are rotated to ensure variety.

The children are closely supervised by the childminder at all times. They learn the importance of keeping safe whilst off the premises, for example, the childminder discusses road safety and gives the children clear instructions when they walk to school. They are sometimes transported by car and the childminder uses appropriate car seats to ensure children's safety. Children learn about safety in the playroom as the childminder explains to children why it is dangerous to throw things and that they must be caring towards each other so that everyone is kept safe.

Children also know how to react in the event of an emergency as they practise the emergency evacuation procedure on a regular basis. This helps to keep children safe.

The childminder has effective procedures in place to ensure that children are protected and well-cared for. She has a good understanding of child protection procedures and she is aware of signs and symptoms of abuse and appropriate responses.

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

The provision is good.

Children engage happily in meaningful play. The childminder provides a varied range of experiences to promote their development and understanding. For example, she provides craft activities such as painting and collage and she takes them to a local library to a 'Rhyme and Time' group where they sing songs and play musical instruments. Children discover the natural world as they visit the park and go on nature walks to find leaves and insects. She develops children's mathematical thinking by counting in everyday play situations such as counting the stacking rings and building bricks.

Babies routines are well established and these are discussed with parents to promote continuity of care. Children's communication skills are encouraged through positive adult-child interactions. The childminder talks to the children all the time and encourages their play. Babies are cuddled and the childminder responds to their sounds with smiles, talking and maintaining lots of eye contact. Young babies and children use all their senses to explore equipment and resources which are placed at their level. They play with musical toys, push along toys and an activity gym.

The childminder has a good understanding of child development. She knows the children well and provides suitable activities for their age range. This means that children's personal, social, emotional and intellectual development is well supported. Children are able to develop their imagination and independence by selecting their own activities and initiating their own play. For example, playing with home corner equipment making the childminder cups of tea and cooking dinner. The childminder is beginning to use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to plan activities for babies and young children. However she is not yet using it to inform her planning for children's next steps in learning. This limits their progress.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle well in the childminders home. They are valued and respected as individuals by the childminder. Their individual needs are met well as they follow their normal daily routines as discussed with parents. The childminder is aware of their likes, dislikes and any special needs.

Children are encouraged to play together and behave well. Behaviour management strategies are discussed and agreed with parents and included in the behaviour policy. The childminder has an effective and consistent approach for dealing with a range of children's behaviour. For example, an explanation is always given, even to young children, to ensure children understand

why their behaviour is unacceptable. Children's self-esteem is promoted and good behaviour is encouraged through the use of meaningful praise and encouragement.

The childminder understands the importance of promoting equal opportunities and helping children learn about the wider world. She talks to the children about the community and uses everyday activities to talk about other countries and cultures. For example, talking to children about peoples differences when watching videos and looking at books. There is a range of resources which provides children with the opportunity to explore other cultures and social diversity, such as imaginary play equipment and stories. The childminder supplements these through use of the toy library. Currently there are no children with learning difficulties or disabilities or children who speak English as an additional language, but the childminder has past experience and ensures that she works with parents and other professionals to meet each child's needs.

Children benefit from the positive relationship between parents and the childminder. This promotes the children's welfare and ensures their individuality is acknowledged and their needs are met. Parents are aware of how the setting operates through the discussion of policies and procedures at registration and daily verbal and written feedback. Written statements from parents demonstrate they are very confident in leaving the children in the childminders care. They feel she is flexible, and well organised and that the children benefit from the wide range of activities she plans and provides.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Most documentation is in good order and ensures that parents have been given the necessary information required by the childminder to meet children individual needs. Policies and procedures are detailed and they work in practice to keep children safe and well whilst in the care of the childminder. However, the attendance register does not always accurately reflect the times of arrival and departure of the children. This means children's welfare is compromised.

The environment and space is organised to enable children to move around freely and play safely. The childminder provides a good range and balance of activities for children of all ages, to enhance children's learning and development. The childminder obtains relevant information to provide appropriate care for children in partnership with parents. Information is shared regularly with parents to keep them up to date on their child's progress. This contributes to continuity in the children's care.

The childminder is very keen to develop her knowledge and skills. She has attended extensive training since her last inspection, including training on the 'Birth to three matters' framework and risk assessment. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to; ensure parents have signed all parts of the contract and to send copy of public liability insurance to Ofsted. The childminder has ensured that all contracts with parents are completed fully and she updates the details on a regular

basis or if there are any changes to contractual hours. She has sent a copy of the public liability insurance to Ofsted and ensures that this is renewed annually. This means that children are fully protected.

### **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 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):

- develop further the use of 'Birth to three matters' framework to plan for children's next steps in learning
- ensure children's daily attendance is recorded accurately.

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)