



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	223095
<b>Inspection date</b>	23 November 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Sheena Osborne
<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 has been registered since July 2000. She lives with her husband and three children aged eight, 11 and 14 years in Ramsey, Cambridgeshire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The house is situated within walking distance of the doctor's surgery, local shops and the primary school.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding twelve children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The childminder has developed firm links with other local childminders.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally clean and tidy home where there are suitable procedures in place to promote generally good hygiene. However, these are not followed consistently. For example, children do not always wash their hands before eating their meals. The childminder has an appropriate first aid qualification and keeps all of the required documentation. However, medication records are not used effectively because the dose administered or the time are not clearly detailed. Parental signatures are not always obtained to acknowledge the medication administered. Therefore children's health and well-being is not effectively supported.

Children enjoy physical activities in the fresh air. Where they have the opportunities to develop their physical skills and learn about the benefits of exercise, to promote healthy living. The childminder works with the parents, which helps her to meet the dietary and health needs of the children in her care. She offers a variety of snacks including fruit, encouraging the children to develop an awareness of healthy eating. All children benefit from having independent access to drinks which supports them in meeting their bodily needs.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a environment where safety procedures are effective in minimising risks from potential dangers. Children are therefore able to move around independently, safely and are not exposed to hazards. The childminder has organised the areas of her home that the children have access to effectively. She ensures that toys and equipment are safe and appropriate for the age and developmental stages of the children using them. These are stored in containers and shelves which the children can reach. Therefore children can move around safely selecting toys and activities independently.

The childminder has a written emergency plan in place for fire and accidents. These are shared with parents and carers as well as being discussed and practiced with the children, thus helping children to understand how to keep themselves safe. Children independently select activities from a range of good quality toys and equipment which meet safety standards. The childminder's good level of supervision ensures that children's choice of toys is safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder further promotes children's safety and well-being because she has a good understanding of child protection. She has developed the skills in this area by attending training which she updates regularly. She knows who to contact and is aware of the local area safeguarding children procedure. She has a written policy which informs parents of this procedure.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's house. They enter confidently and make themselves at home. The childminder organises consistent routines through the day so that children have times for rest and quiet as well as active games. This helps to ensure children are secure and know what to expect. Children develop good personal, social and emotional skills because they have many opportunities to socialise with other children. This is because the childminder meets with other childminders most days. They spend time in each others homes and attend local groups. The children interact well to each other sharing ideas and involving the childminder in their play.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child development. She uses this knowledge to adapt activities to promote younger children's learning. Children spend their time engaged in purposeful play, making choices and developing their own interests. They are beginning to become independent as they choose between a variety of toys, books and activities. They enjoy exploring a wide range of activities, which contribute to their creativity, such as play dough, listening and moving to music, arts and crafts and attending messy play session at local groups.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs and characters are clearly understood and respected by the childminder. All children are welcomed and included in the provision including those with special educational needs. The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and helps children understand their differences and similarities.

Children's behaviour is good. The childminder has a clear and consistent approach to behaviour management, which is appropriate to the differing ages and stages of development of the child. She is calm and positive with the children, using lots of praise and encouragement to promote good behaviour and develop the child's self-esteem. Children benefit from having these consistent boundaries which helps them to learn how to negotiate with others and begin to take responsibility for their actions.

The good relationship with parents contributes significantly to the children's care and well-being. The childminder gathers and shares information with parents, including daily feedback so that parents are well informed of their child's achievements and progress. This ensures that children's care, well-being and development are greatly enhanced.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are secure and confident and have their needs met because the childminder effectively organises the resources, activities and the areas of her home used by the children. Consistent routines and kind and caring support enables children to confidently explore their environment,

begin to express their needs and develop their ideas and interests. Overall, children's needs are met.

The childminder has attended First Aid, Child Protection, Introduction to Childminding as well as many other courses. These have enabled her to develop her knowledge in the care of young children and help her to provide an environment where children are happy.

All required documentation is in place, regularly reviewed and on the whole used effectively. This contributes to the children's health, safety and well-being. The wide range of written policies and procedures provide a framework to ensure that children are safe and well cared for. These are shared with the parents, which means they know about the provision and the care their child receives.

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

The childminder has enhanced the partnership with parents by developing a visually based record of each child's progress.

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

Since 1st 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):

- ensure that good hygiene practices are consistently implemented
- develop the system for recording all medications administered so that it clearly shows the dose and time and ensures that a parental signature is obtained to acknowledge the entry.

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)