



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	405319
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 November 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Jane Muriel Laraman
<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 2004 and lives with her friend in a detached house in Bridgnorth, Shropshire. The ground floor rooms of the house are used for childminding, with toilet facilities available on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed outside play area.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under the age of eight years at any one time. There are currently six children on roll, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children and attends local carer and toddler groups on a regular basis. She also takes the children to the local library, shops, nearby parks, leisure facilities and on countryside walks.

There are no pets.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Shropshire Childminding Network.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home. They learn how to take care of their own personal needs and begin to understand the importance of good personal hygiene through daily routines. For example, they talk with the childminder about why they wash their hands before eating, after messy play and after using the toilet. They know that they carry out these routines to help stop germs spreading. Children are also protected from the risk of cross-infection, as the childminder does not admit them to the provision with any infections and this is discussed with parents. In order to further ensure that children's health is protected, toys and equipment are kept clean and in good condition.

Documentation is maintained regarding the administration of medication and recording of accidents, however an appropriate record is not kept detailing any existing injuries to children and consequently children's welfare is not fully protected. A suitably stocked first aid box is available to ensure children's well-being is safeguarded in the event of accidents.

Children bring their own packed lunch to the childminder's house and enjoy the healthy snacks of fruit that the childminder provides in addition to their meals. They can have a drink whenever they want to as their cups are always accessible to them throughout the day. Their independence is encouraged as they decide for themselves when to have their drinks.

On most days there are outdoor activities to improve children's physical skills. They enjoy playing in the garden or nearby parks, go on regular walks and attend local toddler groups. These activities give them good opportunities to gain exercise, socialise and access fresh air.

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

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into a safe and well-organised environment. They have room to move around freely and safely due to the childminder's regard for a safe, secure environment and her effective organisation of available space. A good range of high-quality furniture, equipment and toys is well-maintained and provided to promote children's development and welfare. Toys and resources are stored so that children can make choices, reach them easily and safely, and develop their independence.

The childminder carries out regular visual checks to identify any hazards in the home and potential risks to children are minimised through the use of safety equipment, precautions against fire and good supervision. Children's growing awareness of safety matters, both indoors and outdoors, is encouraged by the childminder. She teaches them simple safety rules and explains why they need to take care, for example, when using the steps in the garden.

The childminder has a satisfactory awareness and understanding of child protection issues, gained from attending relevant training. She knows the signs and symptoms of abuse and has the referral procedures and contact numbers to hand should she need to report any concerns. She has a written policy in place, which is shared with parents, so they are aware of her responsibilities in relation to safeguarding their children's welfare.

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

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a wide range of activities and resources that are age-appropriate and promote all areas of their learning and development. They have good fun and are challenged and stimulated by the activities and resources that are available to them and are able to spend time concentrating on their chosen activity. For example, they particularly enjoy using writing materials and paints and take great care when creating colourful works of art. Children use and develop their speech and language skills as they count out the crayons and proudly describe their drawings. The children are happy, settled and comfortable in their environment and confidently seek the support of the childminder for comfort and cuddles. They benefit from the childminder's gentle and caring approach and her sensitive involvement in their activities.

Younger children are well supported in their play, which allows them to take part in activities and games at their own level of development. The childminder is beginning to use the 'Birth to three matters' framework and plans to further improve outcomes for young children under three by accessing additional training in this area. Older children are developing increasing independence as they are able to access resources for themselves, use their initiative and make independent choices about their play and activities. They are confident to try to do things for themselves and also to seek the childminder's help.

Children's individual needs, likes and dislikes are well catered for because the childminder takes the time to get to know the children in her care and as a result children develop close relationships and a sense of trust.

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

The provision is good.

Children are secure and happy in the care of the childminder and their individual needs are identified through discussion with parents. Equipment is easily accessible to all the children and they are provided with resources reflecting positive images of different cultures to help develop their understanding of diversity. Children have a strong sense of belonging and their self-esteem is enhanced by the value placed on their creative work and developmental achievements.

The childminder has previous experience and training in caring for children with special needs and demonstrates a very good awareness of being able to meet the needs of children with learning difficulties and disabilities. The opportunity to care for a child with learning difficulties or disabilities is viewed positively and the childminder is able to work with parents and other professionals to ensure children receive appropriate care.

Children behave well in response to the consistent, positive methods used by the childminder to help children of all ages understand the house rules. The childminder uses praise and encouragement to help children understand how to share, take turns and play together harmoniously. Children are encouraged to show care and concern for others because the childminder provides them with a good role model. She speaks to children politely and encourages them to have good manners.

The childminder has good partnerships with parents and exchanges verbal information about their children with them on a daily basis, so that she can be aware of children's changing needs. The childminder is able to respond appropriately to any concerns raised by parents and they are able to discuss the provision and all aspects of their child's care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's knowledge and experience in childcare and her enthusiasm and commitment to further develop her skills by undertaking additional training. She effectively organises her home and resources to enable children to enjoy a range of meaningful activities.

All required documentation that contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place, kept in a confidential manner and stored securely.

Written policies and procedures provide a framework to ensure that children are safe and appropriately cared for, but some need to be reviewed and updated to reflect current practice. Parents are kept informed about the care and attention that their children receive because the childminder talks to them regularly about their child's activities and progress. This contributes to the continuity of children's care so that they feel secure.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection, the childminder agreed to improve health procedures by obtaining written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for their children. The childminder has made sure that she has this consent in place for all children. As a result, children would now receive treatment promptly in the event of an emergency.

Children's safety within the childminder's home has been improved as she has fitted window locks to all the windows, both upstairs and downstairs. Fire safety precautions have been increased through the provision of a fire blanket, which is appropriately positioned in the kitchen.

As recommended at the last inspection, the childminder has extended the range of equipment available to meet the physical needs of children under three years of age. Younger children are now able to enjoy a wider variety of age-appropriate resources and this has enhanced their development and learning. The childminder has also improved her equal opportunities practice

by obtaining more resources which promote respect for diversity. The childminder now provides children with resources such as books, puzzles and dolls which promote a positive image of ethnicity, disability and different cultures. As a result, children are more aware of diversity in the community and wider world and can reflect on the experiences and beliefs of others as they discuss what they are learning about with the childminder.

### **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 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):

- improve the accident recording procedures by ensuring that any existing injuries to children are formally recorded, with entries countersigned by parents
- review policies and procedures regularly to ensure that the information available within them remains up-to-date.

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)