



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY334064
<b>Inspection date</b>	18 January 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Jennie Lenton

<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 2006. She lives with her husband and her three children aged 11, nine and three years in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. The whole of the ground floor (with the exception of the utility room) and the upstairs bathroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have one dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years of age. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends parent and toddler groups, visits the local park and library.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from cross infection as the childminder has effective procedures and policies in place. Good standards of cleanliness are maintained throughout the home which ensures that children are cared for in a safe and hygienic environment. There is a clear exclusion policy for sick children and any child who becomes ill at the setting is able to rest away from others while they wait for their parent to collect them from the premises. This ensures that the good health of all is maintained. There are clear routines which help children learn about how to keep themselves healthy. For example, they are reminded to wash their hands prior to having a meal. Children then independently go and wash their hands after eating as they begin to understand the importance of personal hygiene.

The childminder has sensible procedures regarding children's contact with the family dog. She ensures that they only have contact when two adults are present. Additionally, the childminder is vigilant in checking the outside area prior to children playing in the garden. This ensures that they are protected from any hazards associated with animals. Her proactive approach means that the health of the children is of high priority.

Children are promptly and appropriately cared for should they have an accident at the home. The childminder maintains a well stocked first aid box so that children can receive good care. She accurately records incidents in the accident book which is then shared with parents. Children benefit as their welfare is promoted. There are basic procedures in place for the safe administration of medicine. This helps protect children from the risk of over or under-medicating. Most children are able to receive prompt treatment in the event of an emergency as the childminder has a system to obtain parental consent for the seeking of emergency medical care.

The childminder works effectively with parents to meet each child's dietary needs and routines. She collates information regarding any allergies and preferences and takes account of these. She also incorporates the wishes of parents. For example, she provides either a hot meal or a sandwich depending on where children will be going after leaving her care. The childminder provides a good variety of well balanced meals and snacks. Children enjoy the grapes, bananas and biscuits at snack time. They sit together companionably to eat meals such as ham sandwiches or sausages with vegetables and potato. Children are provided with independent access to a drink throughout the day as the childminder provides individual colour-coded drinking cups. Therefore, children are well nourished and hydrated throughout the day. Their health is further promoted by regular opportunities for active play. They are able to play in the garden or have fun dancing energetically inside the home. This helps them develop their physical skills as they engage in exercise.

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

The provision is good.

Children feel relaxed and content in the welcoming premises. The childminder provides a safe and secure environment where children have lots of space to play and rest. The play equipment is well-organised. Children can independently access most of the wide range of resources. These are attractively set out, or easily accessible in safe, child friendly, storage boxes. All toys and equipment are of a good standard. They are developmentally appropriate which enhances children's welfare and enjoyment.

The childminder has good awareness of hazards within the home and has sought to minimise these. For instance, using socket covers and stairgates. Children receive a high level of supervision to further reduce the potential for harm. This is successfully achieved as the children are encouraged to play together and can easily be observed due to the layout of the home. For most of the time the childminder plays with the children, which further enhances supervision. Younger children are regularly checked as they sleep in the main sitting room.

Both inside and outside areas are secure. Children are effectively kept safe as the premises are suitably locked to prevent children leaving unaccompanied. The garden is securely fenced and hazards such as the water butt are appropriately covered to protect children from harm. Children are also well protected outside the home setting. The childminder ensures children's well-being on outings by using suitable restraints in the car or wrist restraints when walking. Children learn about keeping themselves safe as the childminder talks to them about road safety and 'keeping together'.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of child protection and is clear about her responsibilities. She has a comprehensive policy which is shared with parents. This ensures that any concerns regarding children's welfare can be appropriately discussed. The childminder has due regard for confidentiality and is aware of the procedure to pass concerns on to the correct authorities. Potentially, this safeguards a child from future harm.

A proactive approach is taken in regard to emergency situations. The childminder regularly practises fire drills with the children. She lets them hear the sound of the smoke alarm and practise how to leave the home promptly. Therefore, children learn in a calm setting about how to keep safe in an emergency. This helps them to respond to instruction without delay should it be necessary.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled. They have warm relationships with each other and with the childminder. Children receive lots of attention and are treated with respect as the childminder listens attentively to what they say. Through the childminder's skilful use of praise and encouragement, children's self-esteem is promoted. For example, the childminder sensitively encourages one child to show another how to use the computer game, which ensures both children feel included and valued. Children learn to share and take turns as they happily play together completing jigsaws and building towers. The extensive resources provide a good level

of challenge to all ages. Children have opportunities to bake, dance and dress up as well as access books, educational games and construction toys. The childminder also plans some activities. She includes regular visits to toddler groups and outings to local parks. This varied schedule helps children to develop social skills as well as promoting their creative, physical and intellectual development.

Younger children and babies are generally included in activities and the childminder has good resources available to meet their needs. She is not using the 'Birth to three matters' framework to plan activities for this age range. This does not help to fully promote the outcomes for younger children.

Children have plenty of opportunities to snuggle up with the childminder. This increases their sense of well-being. The childminder further promotes their welfare by ensuring that children benefit from routines which are consistent with their experiences at home. For example, sleeping and feeding in accordance with their individual needs.

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

The provision is good.

Children with learning difficulties and physical disabilities are warmly welcomed as the childminder demonstrates sound awareness of equal opportunities and special needs. She is positive about helping all children to reach their full potential. The childminder discusses any issues with parents to ensure that children with additional needs are well supported. Therefore, children make good progress as they receive consistent support.

The childminder treats children with equal concern by responding to their individual needs and abilities. Parents have opportunities on a daily basis to exchange information with the childminder. This ensures that any concerns or changes relating to the children can be quickly responded to. The childminder also maintains daily diaries for all children to provide further information regarding their well-being. Children benefit from the steady partnership with parents as information is regularly shared to safeguard them from harm. For instance, the childminder agrees a password with parents if the children are to be collected by another friend or relative.

Children behave well as the childminder successfully manages their behaviour. Children learn to play harmoniously as they respond to the childminders consistent rules and boundaries. The use of praise and encouragement ensures that children learn respect for each other and the wider community in a positive way which enhances their self-esteem. For example, children are encouraged to value diversity through discussion about different backgrounds and are praised for showing consideration to each other.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has completed the appropriate courses in childminding and first aid. As a result, children are looked after by a competent carer. The childminder has a sound understanding of

the National Standards and is keen to develop her practice. Children benefit from her enthusiasm as she is committed to incorporating the new learning. This enhances their care.

Most records are sufficiently detailed to ensure that children's welfare is promoted at all times. For example, the daily register is appropriately maintained and shows children's arrival and departure times. These indicate that ratios are consistently met which ensures that children receive high levels of attention. The childminder generally obtains relevant information from the parents at the start of a placement. For example, recording children's allergies and obtaining parental consent for children to receive emergency medical treatment or to be transported in the childminder's vehicle. This protects children as most can promptly receive care that is appropriate to their individual needs. However, there are some inconsistencies in the collection of such information. Where this occurs, the welfare of children is compromised.

Understanding the procedures to notify Ofsted of any changes to her circumstances, the childminder aims to ensure that children receive appropriate care at all times. Her forward thinking means that should an emergency arise, she has agreed arrangements with another childminder. Therefore, children are cared for by a properly vetted individual should an unforeseen incident occur. The spacious environment and sufficient organisation means that the childminder protects children from harm by providing constant supervision in a relaxed and calm home. Overall, children's needs are met.

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

Not applicable.

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

Since registration 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 records to promote the welfare, care and learning of children are maintained, including written consent for vehicle use and the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment.
- improve the outcomes for children under three by using an approach in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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)