



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	220671
<b>Inspection date</b>	27 November 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Jan Clarke-Potter
<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 has been registered since 1998. She lives with her husband and nine year old son in a house in a residential area within the town of Rothwell, near Kettering. The town centre and local parks are within walking distance. The whole of the premises with the exception of the main bedroom are used for childminding. There is a garden available for outdoor play. The childminder attends the local childminding support group and parent and carer toddler group.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years. She is currently minding four under five years, one five to eight years, and two children over eight years, at various times.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in warm, welcoming, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They learn why they must wash their hands after using the toilet and use of individual wipes and disposable gloves reduces the risk of germs. Children's health and well-being is supported by the childminder's knowledge of paediatric first aid and sound arrangements are in place to exchange information with parents for the administration of medicines and any accidents. The paediatric first aid certificate is up to date and this ensures children's health is safeguarded. Close liaison with parents helps the childminder to meet the children's care needs and she gains information from the parents to ensure their dietary needs are well met.

Children learn the importance of healthy eating because the childminder keeps herself up to date with current practices. The childminder ensures that a range of fresh fruit is available at snack times. Whilst she does not provide meals for children she ensures that any the parents provide are stored appropriately at the right temperature and served in a way that encourages children to eat well and enjoy mealtimes as a social occasion. Children have access to drinking water at all times, the younger children's beakers are kept filled and available to them, keeping them well hydrated and comfortable.

Children enjoy an extensive range of physical activities and have regular opportunities for exercise. They regularly walk to and from school. Outdoor play and visits to the park include a range of activities which ensures they have fresh air and physical activity to aid their good health, such as jumping on the trampoline, climbing on the frame and slide, and playing with bats and balls.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure environment. The childminder has an understanding of safety issues and she minimises most risks. Children move around the home safely and independently. There are safe barriers at the top and bottom of the stairs, and interlinking smoke alarms ensure children's safety. The childminder supervises well in order to maintain children's safety and checks sleeping babies regularly. However, the safety of sleeping children is compromised in areas where there are toys for older children. Children start to learn about safety through involvement in evacuation practices which are completed on a regular basis. Children are kept safe on outings as the childminder ensures children hold onto the pram, and have appropriate reins, older children hold hands and she talks to them about road safety.

Children can select from a varied range of toys, books and equipment appropriate to all ages of children attending. This enables them to make choices and initiate their own play. They keep safe because the childminder checks on the state of play resources and maintains them in appropriate condition. Children's welfare is not always safeguarded as the childminder is not secure in her knowledge of local child protection procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle very well, they make themselves at home in the childminder's house. Toddlers are secure because they have very good relationships with the childminder, and develop a sense of belonging. Older children are confident, independent and developing their self-esteem. The childminder plans enthusiastically to promote children's interest in activities. She uses her knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and children's own interests to help plan a very varied range of stimulating and exciting activities. For example, children make masks, hunt for treasure and make costumes, eat different fruits, and become familiar with different countries and traditions.

Children's daily routines are maintained because the childminder discusses these and other stages of development thoroughly with their parents to ensure she has the information she needs to care for them. Children of all ages relate very well to each other. They play in small or larger groups depending on the activity. Children become independent as they are able to choose between a wide variety of toys, books and activities, which appeal to all. The older children help with the younger children and give them support and encouragement. Children's physical development is encouraged by playing on equipment in the garden and through regular trips to the park where they are able to extend large motor skills by climbing and balancing on equipment and playing with bats and balls. Children's social and emotional skills are encouraged through regular outings into the local community where they attend childminding support groups and carer and toddler groups, which helps build their confidence. They have outings in the local community to farm parks and recreational parks. The childminder knows the children very well and provides opportunities to explore their feelings and those of others in a safe and caring environment, to help develop their own identity and self-esteem.

Children are stimulated with exciting activities which are well thought out and planned by the childminder in order to meet and challenge their developmental needs. Children sit and concentrate, they share books, sing nursery rhymes and sing-a-long songs which helps develop their language skills. They enjoy painting, playing with malleable dough, sand and water. They develop their manipulative skills as they use paint brushes, pens, crayons and pencils, they cut and stick using a variety of tools.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by the childminder who works with parents to meet individual children's needs. Children become aware of the wider society by the childminder's positive attitude although there are limited resources promoting diversity. Children feel a sense of belonging because the childminder includes them in all activities and is sensitive to their needs. Children experience stable and consistent care arrangements, with the childminder and parent securing agreement for business and care aspects.

Children behave very well, with praise and encouragement expressed by the childminder to promote their confidence and self-esteem. Children work harmoniously with each other, the older children helping and supporting the younger children. They understand responsible

behaviour. Children develop self-esteem and respect for others as they learn about people's similarities and differences.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home in the childminder's care. Most space, routines and resources are organised well to meet the children's needs. This enables them to confidently initiate and extend their play. Although some safety aspects of sleeping children need addressing. Adults are appropriately vetted and the childminder ensures that adult and child ratios are maintained at all times. Children are able to play and learn independently, as well as receiving one to one support. Children's welfare, care and learning is assured by the childminder's records which she updates regularly, although some procedures are not kept up to date. The childminder attends further training to keep herself abreast of current childcare practices, such as paediatric first aid. Overall, the children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was required to ensure that electric wires were made inaccessible to children. The TV wires have been protected by a pouffe and small children can no longer access the wires, this ensures their continuing safety. She was also required to ensure suitable and safe sleeping arrangements were in place. She sleeps minded children in a travel cot in a bedroom on the first floor, because of the older children's toys in the bedroom it is not a safe place for babies to sleep. The childminder is making arrangements for children to sleep in a more suitable place to ensure their welfare and safety.

## **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 all to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see upon 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):

- ensure safe and suitable sleeping arrangements are in place
- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and ensure that procedures comply with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- make a range of resources available to children which reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity and disability.

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)