



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY292821
<b>Inspection date</b>	19 February 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Paula Hunt
<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 registered in 2004. She lives with her partner and son aged two years in a house in the Earlsdon area of Coventry. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a secure garden available for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and takes children to the local park.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five years full-time and three school age children on a part-time basis.

The childminder has a pet rabbit. She has an early years qualification and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's good health is well promoted with the premises and equipment kept clean. Kitchen surfaces and table tops where food is prepared and served are wiped with anti-bacterial spray to keep them hygienically clean. The children are encouraged to follow good hygiene routines, developing their independence and helping to prevent the spread of infection. For example, washing their hands before meal times, after using the toilet and after feeding or touching the rabbit. Each child has their own colour coded towel and tissues are readily available for them to wipe their noses. Parents are aware that their child should not attend if their child has a contagious illness or sickness and diarrhoea, and that they will be contacted if the child becomes ill.

Children benefit from a healthy diet and the childminder's good food hygiene practices as she has completed food hygiene training. Individual dietary needs are catered for and currently the childminder provides up to three meals a day plus snacks. Children receive a good range of well-balanced and nutritious meals and snacks. For example, pasta, jacket potatoes, cheese on toast, sandwiches and fresh fruit. Children are able to have drinks throughout the day through the childminder offering and providing them on a frequent basis, ensuring they do not become thirsty .

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health and promote their physical well-being. For example, riding bikes, climbing on appropriate equipment and jumping on the trampoline. They are given daily opportunities to walk, run, practise skills and go on large play equipment in the local park. Children benefit from routines and are able to rest and sleep according to their needs and the wishes of their parents.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming home where they feel secure and confident. Space within the home, together with furniture and resources is arranged to enable children to move around safely and to provide plenty of room for play. The majority of toys are stored at child height and in appropriately labelled boxes that are easily accessible to children, thus encouraging freedom of choice and independence. The childminder carries out daily visual checks on equipment and carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure that they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Children are cared for in an environment where most risks have been identified and minimised. For example, safety gates prevent children's unsupervised access to the kitchen and stairs. However, children are not prevented from accessing the fire or its surround and consequently, children are not fully protected from risk of injury. Children are learning to keep themselves safe. For example, when they go for walks or on outings, the childminder talks to them about crossing the roads safely. Children's welfare in the case of an emergency is taken into consideration by carefully planned and regularly practised fire evacuation procedures.

Children are suitably protected from risk of harm as they are never left alone with persons who have not been vetted. The childminder also has a clear awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse. She keeps Local Safeguarding Children Board child protection guidance to hand so that action may be taken as soon as she has any concerns about a child.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for as individuals with different needs. The childminder ensures that her expectations of children are appropriate and that good resources are provided and activities adapted for different stages of development. Children have plenty of room to move around freely and take part in spontaneous play. Activities are well planned around themes such as 'seasons' and 'all about me' and incorporate some festivals and celebrations. Children choose from a good range of toys and equipment which they clearly enjoy playing with, helping them to learn through their play. The childminder makes effective use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and children receive lots of individual attention.

Children relate well to the childminder and are confident in their surroundings. They are able to easily access and choose from a varied range of toys, equipment and resources, helping them to develop their independence. Children are beginning to develop social skills by having opportunities to play with other children of a similar age through attending local childminding groups. Children have opportunities to dance, listen and move to music, sing and listen to stories. They are learning to count, name colours and extend their language, for example, when discussing their favourite type of biscuits. They are confident and are developing independence whilst selecting activities and using the toilet.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others, for example, books, puzzles, multicultural dolls and a variety of role play items. Children are encouraged to develop a positive attitude towards others by the use of everyday experiences and activities to stimulate play and discussion. They are also provided with an insight into a range of festivals through creative activities, stories and food tasting.

Children are well behaved and their independence and self-esteem is encouraged through the childminder's realistic expectations of behaviour and use of appropriate praise and encouragement. Children are aware of rules and boundaries due to the childminder's use of a good range of behaviour management strategies which are applied appropriately, calmly and consistently.

Children are comfortable in the childminder's home because there is an effective two-way sharing of information between her and parents. Parents are given regular opportunities to share information about children's needs, interests and experiences and the childminder ensures

they are kept well informed through daily diaries, regular chats and progress records. A good partnership exists and as a result children receive consistency and their needs are well met.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are provided with a homely and well-organised environment and they are comfortable in the childminder's care. This means that they are confident to initiate and extend their own learning. The childminder effectively uses clear policies and procedures to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. She shares them with parents and as a result parents have clear expectations with regards to the service being offered and the level of care and attention their children should expect to receive.

The childminder continues to train and update her skills and regularly reviews her practices to keep children safe. Most of the legally required documentation is suitably maintained to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. However, children are unable to be fully protected because the register of attendance is not always up to date.

Overall, children's needs are met.

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

At the previous inspection the childminder was asked to improve children's safety by ensuring a drain was inaccessible to children and to develop the range of activities and resources to promote equality of opportunity and anti discriminatory practice.

The childminder has installed a secure drain cover, improving children's safety in the garden, and has purchased a good variety of resources which include books including some dual language, puzzles, dolls and dressing up clothes to promote equality of opportunity and anti discriminatory practice. Children attend a local childminding group and take part in activities to celebrate festivals, which help to develop their understanding of other cultures and make a positive contribution.

### **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):

- ensure children have no access to the fire
- ensure children's record of attendance is accurate and 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)