



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	222364
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 March 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Denise May Smith

<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 1993. She lives with her husband and three children aged 12 and two adult children in a Fenland town. The whole of the childminder's bungalow is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time or eight when working with an assistant. She is currently minding three children under five on a part-time basis, and five children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends the local toddler groups.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children thrive in this warm and loving environment. The childminder's practice is based on effective policies and procedures, which promote the physical, nutritional and health needs of the children in her care. Children develop their knowledge and understanding of good hygiene practice as they wash their hands at appropriate times throughout the day; helping to prevent cross-infection. The childminder holds a current first aid qualification which helps her to respond to any accidents appropriately. However, the first aid kit contains some out of date items which does not support their care. Any medication administered to the children has parents prior written consent and is recorded appropriately. However, this record does not include sufficient detail to totally underpin the care offered.

Children benefit from healthy, balanced meals and snacks. The childminder consults parents and children about their food preferences and dietary requirements. She promotes healthy eating well through actively seeking out information and creating interesting activities involving food. These include the children planting, growing and eating the fruit they have grown. The children learn from each other as they sit and eat together every day. This routine promotes social interaction. They are encouraged to make choices about the fruit they wish to eat for their snack according to their individual preferences. Younger children have drinks in non-spill cups, available at all times; older children access drinks as they wish.

Children develop very good physical skills as they freely access a range of toys and equipment both indoors and outdoors. The childminder is very skilled in providing toys and equipment suitable to the ages of the children in her care. She has a good knowledge of how children learn and develop and uses this to underpin her care. As a result children, including babies and toddlers are confident to explore their surroundings with ease.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a very safe, clean, warm and child-friendly environment. They are able to move around freely and play happily in comfort. Older children can play knowing that the younger children's safety is considered. The provision is exceptionally well resourced with good quality furniture, toys and equipment, which allows children to experience active and quiet activities. Toys and play materials are stored in child-height storage units. This enables children to make independent choices. Toys are developmentally appropriate and in excellent condition.

Children are protected on and off the premises because the childminder is vigilant and gives gentle prompts and reminders to children about various aspects of safety. This helps children to learn about keeping themselves safe such as introducing the Green Cross Code and discussions about stranger danger. The childminder gives high regard to ensuring children understand what to do in the event of a fire. They develop their understanding through activities and visiting the local fire station. Fire prevention equipment is in place and maintained ensuring children are cared for in safe premises.

The childminder has an in depth knowledge of child protection issues and is able to recognise signs of abuse. She would always follow the procedures set out in the local and national guidelines. The childminder's knowledge of these procedures enhances the overall safety of children in her care and promotes their welfare.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy a wide range of play activities in a stimulating environment. They take part in imaginative play using dolls, play food and kitchen equipment. The childminder extends their play through conversation, helping to develop their imagination. They like to talk with each other, share books and sing songs. Babies are able to explore and investigate a range of toys and older children become very involved in activities, especially art-and-craft projects, such as building a castle or a dinosaur home. They spend much time drawing and creating, proud of their work, which is displayed on the walls. They concentrate very hard when playing with cold spaghetti and corn flour, both individually or in small groups. They benefit from the interaction of the childminder who helps them to develop their own ideas or suggests new ideas, thereby enhancing their experience. All children are well supported, happy and developing skills. Consequently they become independent and confident members of a group.

Children are making progress in their learning through the help and encouragement of the childminder. She is keen for children to learn through their play. The childminder has an in depth knowledge of child development enabling her to assess children's learning and plan for their next steps. This ensures they make progress. She is very effective in promoting communication and co-ordination skills in very young children. Older children are learning to use numbers and mathematical language during play. They develop manipulative skills when cutting shapes in art and craft activities and using a range of tools with play dough. Children practice their pre-writing skills as they mark make and have good opportunities to find out about living things. They explore the local environment as they go for walks and socialise with other children at the local toddler groups. Overall, children are engaged in many learning experiences and a wide variety of organised activities making their time at the childminders fun.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are developing a strong sense of place and learn about where they live through the many outings around the local environment. They visit the park, go on nature walks and socialise with other children at the toddler groups. The childminder is extremely positive with the children and promotes good behaviour with her positive attitude. She sees the good in all children and helps them learn right from wrong by reinforcing clear, sensible boundaries. They are encouraged to share the dolls, counting them out between them so that it is fair. This encourages them to play harmoniously together and learn to be kind to each other. The childminder acts as a good role model to the children as she says please and thank you to them.

The childminder ensures she gathers a wealth of relevant information so that she knows the children's likes, dislikes and needs and can therefore offer good quality care. All children are treated as individuals and with respect helping them to feel good about themselves. They gain an awareness of diversity by playing with a range of different toys which include those depicting other cultures and diversity. She further develops their understanding as they learn about different festivals for example, celebrating Chinese New Year.

The childminder has cared for children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She is pro-active in ensuring she has the skills and knowledge to enable her to offer a good level of support.

Parents are fully informed about the care the childminder provides; she shares all the necessary records and information with parents and ensures parents are aware of the progress children make and how they have spent their day. The childminder gives each parent a DVD containing photographs of their children involved in the numerous activities provided during the day. This gives them a good insight as to how they spend their time. New parents are encouraged to visit the home prior to the child being looked after, ensuring the childminder knows the child's daily routine and individual needs. Parents speak highly of the service provided; they have completed questionnaires and sent many thank you cards saying how happy the children have been in her care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's enjoyment is extremely well fostered. The childminder makes excellent use of the available time, for example, the daily routine includes taking and collecting children from school, snacks, mealtimes, time for unhurried play and opportunities to take part in planned activities. Children's care is enhanced by the childminder's efficient organisation. Comprehensive policies and many effective procedures are in place to promote children's well-being and safety.

Children benefit from the childminder's extensive knowledge and understanding of the National Standards which supports her in providing good quality care for the children. The childminder has completed a recognised childcare qualification, is currently studying for a psychology degree, and attends all relevant workshops in order to develop her knowledge and underpin the care offered to the children.

All children benefit from the broad and exciting range of activities and opportunities, both indoors and outdoors. The setting is homely and organised to support children in their play. Appropriate storage of toys and resources ensures that children of all ages can make independent choices.

Overall, children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to, devise a method of recording any medication given to the children and to develop a sick children's policy that will include procedures to be

taken if a child becomes unwell in the childminder's care. Both of these have been implemented with minor changes required. This has improved the quality of the care offered to the children.

### **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 that the contents of the first aid box are up to date and that the recording of any medication given to the children contains sufficient details to underpin the care offered.

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)