



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	260882
<b>Inspection date</b>	25 January 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Margaret Webster
<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 2001. She lives with her husband and two children aged six and three years in Telford, Shropshire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five, one full-time, one part-time and three child over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler group.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She is a member of the early years network.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They are provided with a good range of healthy meals and snacks that include vegetables, protein and carbohydrates. The childminder has a menu which she shares and discusses with the parents. These comply with dietary requirements to ensure children remain healthy. The children are encouraged to have regular drinks to ensure they are sufficiently hydrated.

Established routines such as hand washing after using the toilet, before eating and playing outside enable children to learn about the importance of good personal hygiene and keeping healthy. This and other good hygiene practices such as the childminder ensuring she always washes her hands before preparing food and keeping her house clean and tidy, ensure the children benefit from a healthy environment.

Children's physical development is well promoted as they are offered a range of play opportunities both indoors and out. They have access to an outdoor play area and go out everyday to the park or for local walks in the local community, which contribute to their good health. These activities help young children develop control of their bodies and improve their physical skills.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well maintained and spacious home where most risks of accidental injury have been minimised. However, the stairs are accessible to the young children and this is a potential danger to the young children in her care. All of the other safety precautions are in place, such as smoke detectors, fire blanket, fire guards and the outside play area is safe and secure.

The children are kept safe on outings as the childminder checks playgrounds and supervises children carefully while they play. She ensures they are always within her sight and sound, and teaches them about road safety helping them become aware of keeping themselves safe.

Children use a wide range of safe, good quality, developmentally appropriate toys and resources. These are organised and stored in low-level furniture and storage boxes to encourage independent access by all children. They are carefully selected to ensure they are suitable and checked regularly to ensure there are no broken parts that could harm a child.

The children are well protected, their welfare and safety is promoted at all times. This is ensured by the childminder holding a current first aid certificate. She has a good understanding of her roles and responsibilities with regards to child protection, and is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse. She is aware of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) procedures.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's personal, social and emotional development is nurtured appropriately due to the childminder's good knowledge and experience of child development. She knows the children well, their abilities and interests and constantly encourages them to achieve and try new things. The children are relaxed and settle well at the childminder's house. They are motivated and interested in a broad range of age-appropriate indoor and outdoor activities which are stimulating and promote learning and development in all areas. These include a range of art and craft activities and music-making which help develop their creativity and imagination. They develop a healthy interest in books and enjoy stories being read to them by the childminder. They also enjoy helping the childminder in everyday household activities such as laying the table for lunch. Regular visits to the park and outdoor play in the garden help promote their physical development. Children become independent as they make choices about the activities they become involved in and use their initiative to choose the toys they want to play with such as musical instruments, books, drawing.

Children benefit from the childminder's warm and affectionate nature making them feel at home and valued. They approach her for support indicating good relationships are built and they relate well to her and other children helping to develop their personal and social skills. The childminder actively participates in activities and constantly interacts with the children, asking them questions, listening to them and responding well, resulting in the children rapidly learning new words and developing their language and communication skills. They are able to express their feelings and desires so that the childminder is able to understand them, and respond appropriately in order to meet their individual needs.

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

The provision is good.

All children are treated with equal concern and respect and are made to feel good about themselves. They have access to a range of resources and activities that promote equality and reflect positive images of diversity. This helps children develop positive attitudes towards people from different cultures and backgrounds. Although the childminder does not currently mind children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, she has an understanding of caring for them. She would work closely with parents and any outside agencies involved with the care of the child.

Children benefit from lots of praise and encouragement which helps develop their confidence and self-esteem. They are aware of and benefit from clear boundaries and ground rules within the home. The appropriate and consistent behaviour management strategies are used, according to the age and stage of development, help children learn right from wrong. The children are well behaved and play together harmoniously and are beginning to show a good understanding of working co-operatively and being aware of each other's needs as they share resources such as musical instruments and dressing up clothes.

The children's needs are well met as the childminder ensures she gathers all relevant information before children are placed in her care. She develops a positive and professional partnership

with parents to ensure they share ongoing important information about the children's needs and progress. Daily diaries are provided each day to inform the parents about the child's food intake, sleep pattern, activities and development. Parents are also welcome to spend time with the childminder each day to chat about the children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The children feel comfortable with the childminder in her welcoming and well organised home. They are secure and confident in their play and benefit from the childminder's continued support, attention and encouragement. They get to know the childminder well and she enjoys spending time with them and joining in their play.

The childminder is a qualified nursery nurse. She has 13 years experience of working with young children and she has attended the Introduction to Childminding Practice (ICP) level 3. She has a current first aid certificate and has recently attended several short course in child care including, child protection, behaviour management and food hygiene. This knowledge and experience ensures that the children are well cared in an environment where they can learn and develop.

Overall, children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the provider was asked to develop the layout of the storage for children's resources to encourage children to select and choose their own activities. She has had a conservatory built on the house and she now stores all the toys and equipment in there. The children are able to choose their activities from the low level storage boxes and shelves. This builds the children's confidence and enables them to choose their own activities.

### **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 stairs are safe and inaccessible when caring for young children.

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)