



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY336773
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 February 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Karen Cooper
<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 2006. She is registered to provide care from her daughter's home where they co-mind. Her daughter lives with her husband and their 20 month old child. They live in a house in Smethwick, West Midlands, close to local shops, parks, schools and public transport. The whole of the ground floor together with the upstairs bathroom is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for five children at any one time and is currently minding four children, of whom all attend on a part time basis. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to learn about personal hygiene through daily routines such as, hand washing before meals and after using the toilet. They are cared for in a clean and hospitable environment where the childminder is active in promoting good hygiene. Children play with safe and well maintained toys and resources within a welcoming home.

Children benefit from a healthy diet and the childminder ensures that their individual dietary needs are catered for. They are provided with regular healthy snacks throughout the day and drinks are readily available. Information is frequently shared with parents to ensure that their wishes are being respected.

Regular use of the garden and outdoor environment enables children to develop physical skills such as climbing, manoeuvring wheeled toys and enjoying the fresh air. Children benefit from a flexible routine that gives them plenty of opportunities to rest and play according to their individual needs.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Space has been organised to ensure the needs of the children are met. Play mainly takes place in the lounge and dining area, which is welcoming and suitable for children to use. Children are able to independently access and select from a good range of quality resources that are safe and in good condition. Equipment is regularly checked for safety and is kept clean.

Children are cared for in a safe environment as all reasonable steps are taken to reduce the risk of an accident. Appropriate safety equipment is used according to the age and needs of the children attending, including socket covers, safety gates and a fire guard. Children are beginning to learn about safety through discussion and explanation. For example, they learn about fire safety and know the procedure for evacuation in an emergency. Appropriate fire equipment such as a fire blanket and smoke detectors are provided and are regularly checked to ensure they are in good working order. There are clear procedures to ensure only authorised people collect children. For example, passwords are used when necessary for extra protection. The childminder ensures children are safe when on outings and takes appropriate information such as parent contact numbers in the case of an emergency.

Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's appropriate knowledge of her role and responsibility to protect children in her care. She is aware of signs and symptoms of abuse however, to ensure the children's and her own welfare is not compromised her knowledge of child protection procedures needs to be improved.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and have formed good relationships with the childminder. This enables the children to make good progress in their personal, social and emotional development. The children are provided with a good range of activities and experiences that reflect their needs, interests and which help them to make progress in their development. For example role-play, craft and cooking. The environment is child-orientated and the children are able to make decisions about their play as they choose from the various well-placed toys and activities.

The children play happily with box games such as 'connect 4'. They enjoy participating in a cooking activity making biscuits in the shape of dinosaurs and thoroughly enjoy eating the end results. Their development is encouraged and promoted by the good level of support and interaction received from the childminder. The childminder is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and adapts activities to promote the children's learning.

The children are helped to develop confidence and self-esteem through use of praise. Good behaviour is acknowledged and the childminder ensures that it is highlighted during daily discussions with parents.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and the childminder meets their needs well through daily routines, which are discussed and agreed with parents. Children choose from a good range of resources, which include worksheets, picture cards and books to develop a positive understanding of different cultures and people with disabilities.

Children play happily and are confident, sociable and secure. They respond positively to the childminder who ensures that behaviour is managed with use of praise, explanation and distraction. Children are well behaved and are encouraged to share, take turns and show consideration for others. They are listened to and the childminder values what they say, which helps them to feel good about themselves.

Partnership with parents is good. Daily discussions ensure they are kept up-to-date about their child's progress and achievements. There are good procedures in place for keeping parents informed about the childminding service which helps to contribute to children's overall well-being. Parents are given the opportunity to settle their child gradually into the childminder's home and are regularly consulted about their child's needs.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The children feel at ease in a well-organised, homely environment. They use the ground floor of the property to enjoy a wide variety of spontaneous and planned activities and independently select from a good range of quality toys and equipment. The childminder shows commitment towards her personal development and is working towards a recognised childcare qualification.

She improves her knowledge by attending relevant short courses for example, food hygiene, first aid and 'Birth to three matters'.

Policies and procedures that are required for the efficient and safe management of the children are regularly reviewed and shared with parents. A range of written policies are shared with parents and verbal information is exchanged on a regular basis to ensure that they are well informed of their child's daily events and of the service offered. Documentation is stored securely to ensure confidentiality is maintained. Overall children's needs are met.

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

Not applicable as this is the first inspection.

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

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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):

- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures.

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)