

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	256960
<b>Inspection date</b>	29 May 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Jean Suff
<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 1989. She lives with her husband, also a registered childminder, in a suburb of Peterborough. Both childminders have joint responsibility for the childminding practice. The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight and currently has three children on roll. The childminder uses local shops and facilities. She is a member of the National Childminding Association. The whole of the house is available for childminding but children are mainly cared for on the ground floor with sleeping arrangements on the first floor. There is an enclosed garden for outside play.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well-maintained home. Appropriate hygiene procedures are in place to ensure children's good health. For example, each child has their own toothbrush for use after meals. Surfaces and equipment are cleaned on a regular basis. Children learn good personal hygiene through sensible routines such as washing their hands after using the toilet.

Children have good access to fresh air and exercise. They have regular opportunities to play in the garden with a variety of toys and equipment and take walks to the local shops and park.

Children's well-being is ensured because the childminder has clear systems in place. All permissions from parents regarding medication and emergency medical treatment are in place. Accidents are recorded in detail and parental signatures acknowledging entries are obtained. Children benefit as the childminder has a good knowledge of nutrition and plans and provides balanced and nutritious menus. For example, fish pie, carrots and peas followed by fresh fruit. Children are encouraged to make healthy choices such as eating fruit as a snack. Drinks, including water, are readily available to children to ensure they remain hydrated and comfortable. The childminder discusses with parents children's individual requirements and abides by them.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe environment. The childminder is diligent in her supervision of children and the premises both indoors and out are secure. Hazards are kept to a minimum as spaces are tidy and kept free of clutter. Although the childminder has risk assessments in place, these are not sufficiently detailed to ensure children's safety in the event of evacuation of the top two floors of the premises. Children play with toys that are in good condition and appropriate to their age and stage of development. However, play equipment and child sized furniture is not always easily accessible to children so limiting their independence and risking their safety.

Children remain safe on outings as the childminder uses aids such as reins and wrist straps to keep children close by her. Children learn about personal safety as they talk about the dangers of traffic and safe ways to cross the road. Their welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues and has arrangements in place in line with local child protection procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled with the childminder. They are confident in their dealings with adults and other children, for example, as they ask for favourite games or play sociably together in the playroom. The childminder makes available a good variety of resources suited to their stage of development. For example, children complete inset puzzles, dress up in role play costumes or make pictures with Fuzzy Felt figures. Planning shows children participate in a good range of activities that help their all-round development. They are able to make simple choices about their play. The childminder listens to children, responding to what they say and encouraging them to add further detail to their explanations. Children's daily routines include activities inside and outside the home to contribute to their overall development. They enjoy one-to-one attention with the childminder when they work on their individual development plan. Children experience their local environment when they visit shops or the park. When planning daily activities the childminder follows children's current interests so raising their self-esteem. The childminder uses the 'Birth to three matters' framework and other relevant publications to plan activities for younger children's development and learning.

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

The provision is good.

Children and parents are welcomed into the childminder's home where she provides a warm and caring environment. Children are made to feel at home because the childminder takes time to talk to parents and identify their requirements. Children have good opportunities to learn about their community and socialise with others as they visit local shops, play in the park and attend story-time sessions at the library. They have access to some resources that positively reflect images of different people and take part in activities such as cooking foods from cultures other than their own. The welfare of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is well supported because the childminder has experience in this area and a good understanding of the issues.

Children are well behaved. The childminder uses a range of appropriate behaviour management strategies such as praise and distraction. Through a calm and gentle but firm approach children are learning acceptable patterns of behaviour. The needs of children are met as the childminder works in partnership with parents. Agreements are in place and information is shared at the time of the placement and on a daily basis. The childminder has a clear understanding of the complaints procedure which she shares with parents.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit by being cared for by an adult who shows a clear commitment to childminding. She is advancing her own practice through further training in childcare learning and development. She keeps up to date with childcare issues and researches ideas for activities through reading current publications. Children are able to rest, play and eat comfortably because space and resources are mainly effectively organised. They spend individual time with the childminder as she maintains good adult to child ratios and has a keen awareness of their emotional needs. Children's welfare is supported through useful setting information and policies that are shared with parents on admission. All documentation is well organised, appropriately completed and kept up to date. Overall children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was required to ensure children are provided with a sufficient amount of child-sized or comfortable furniture. The childminder has gone some way to meet this in that furniture has been acquired. However, it is not necessarily in use or easily accessible to children. A further recommendation has therefore been raised to use the furniture to help create an accessible and stimulating environment for 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):

- use furniture, equipment and toys to help to create an accessible and stimulating environment for children
- devise and practise an emergency escape plan for upper floors of the setting.

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)