

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY265569
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 June 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Jennie Lenton
<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 has been registered since 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged six and eight years, in Werrington, Stoke-on-Trent. The whole of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family has a variety of pets, a cat, snake, lizard and an African land snail.

The childminder takes and collects children from local schools and nurseries. She is registered to care for a maximum of five children under the age of eight. She currently has eight children on roll who attend on a part-time basis. The childminder welcomes children with learning difficulties or physical disabilities.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are successfully protected from cross-infection as the childminder maintains her home to a high standard. She effectively follows sensible procedures to ensure that children's health is prioritised. For example, children have individual crockery for eating and drinking. Their

health is further promoted as the childminder encourages them to develop good personal hygiene routines. For example, children independently wash their hands after going to the toilet as they know that this stops germs from spreading. A clear policy detailing the exclusion of sick children maintains the health of all. Any child who becomes ill at the setting is appropriately cared for and monitored while they await collection.

There are clear procedures in place for the administration of medicine and for recording accidents. This helps to ensure children receive consistent care as their needs are accurately recorded and routinely shared. Dietary needs are also successfully met as the childminder collates information relating to children's individual requirements. She prepares sandwiches and fresh fruit for lunch and offers snacks during the day. For babies, she provides feeds in line with parental wishes. Older children help themselves to drinks throughout the day and younger ones are regularly reminded to drink from their beakers. Children therefore benefit from nutritious food and regular fluids.

Children enjoy plenty of opportunities for active play. They have access to a large garden where they can choose between playing on the trampoline, swing set or on tricycles and toy tractors. Younger children pedal around with increasing skill while older children enjoy bouncing enthusiastically on the fully enclosed trampoline. They also have daily exercise as they walk with the childminder to the local school and nursery. This effectively promotes their physical development and encourages a positive attitude towards healthy living.

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

The provision is good.

Children feel relaxed and comfortable in the warm and welcoming premises. This is because the childminder provides a safe and secure environment where children have lots of space to play and rest. The play equipment is organised so that it can be easily and safely accessed by children. This promotes children's independence and a sense of belonging. All toys and equipment are of a good standard. Children also learn about how to keep themselves safe as they play. The childminder talks to them as they enjoy baking together, explaining 'what is hot' and what 'you can't touch'. Similarly, she encourages them to stop and listen as she walks with them in the local area. As a result, children develop an understanding of how to follow instruction as well as obtaining good road sense.

The childminder has a clear awareness of hazards within the home and has sought to minimise these. For instance, she uses a fire-guard and stair-gates to promote children's safety. Children receive a high level of supervision which also reduces the potential for accidental harm. This is successfully achieved as the childminder generally plays alongside them and remains vigilant as she watches their play. Both inside and outside areas are secure. Children are effectively kept safe as the premises are suitably locked to prevent children leaving unaccompanied. A buzzer is activated if the front door is opened which further ensures that any arrivals or departures are monitored. Outside areas are generally free from hazards. The garden is well maintained and provides ample space for children to move freely. However, the nature tank containing tadpoles does not have an appropriate cover. Potentially this compromises children's safety.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of child protection issues and is clear about her responsibilities. She has due regard for confidentiality and is confident about working with other authorities. She is aware of the procedures for contacting the Local Safeguarding Children Board. As a result, children are protected from future harm.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled. They have warm relationships with each other and with the childminder. They enjoy their time at the home, independently accessing resources and enjoying each other's company. Children receive lots of attention and are treated with respect as the childminder listens attentively to what they say. For example, during holiday periods the childminder asks each child what activity they would like to do and tries to incorporate these into the day. This promotes children's self-esteem as their suggestions are valued and their preferences respected. Children learn to share and take turns as they happily play together watering plants in the garden and role playing with dolls and pushchairs. They communicate confidently and develop good social skills as they show care for each other. For instance, getting snacks or toys for the younger children.

The extensive resources provide a good level of challenge to all ages. Children have opportunities to play imaginatively with role play and small world toys. They also access books, a computer, jigsaws and construction toys. The childminder provides opportunities to visit the park and library which broadens children's awareness of the local community. Some innovative activities are also provided. For example, the childminder has a 'nature tank' in the garden where children can watch frogspawn develop into tadpoles and then into frogs. As a result, children's creative, physical and intellectual development is successfully promoted.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder treats all children with equal concern and ensures that they all receive quality time and attention. She asks each child about their day and seeks their views about which activities they would like to engage in. Through effective supervision she ensures that all children share resources and show consideration for each other's needs. As a result, children learn to interact with each other in a positive way and respect their differences. This is not fully extended to the wider community however, as there are limited resources and activities to promote positive images of different backgrounds and abilities. Therefore, children do not have many opportunities to learn about diversity.

Children behave well as the childminder provides a supportive environment for them to learn right and wrong. Parents are informed of the behaviour policy through a comprehensive written document. The childminder uses encouragement and praise to promote positive actions. She skilfully personalises rewards to reflect children's individual preferences, which effectively encourages them to achieve goals in their behaviour. Unwanted actions are calmly dealt with through the use of a range of safe techniques which are adapted to meet the age and maturity of the child. For example, when one child becomes upset as another does not want to share, the childminder responds to both children positively and helps them to resolve the issue by providing other activities and options. This ensures that children learn how to behave in a way that protects their self-esteem.

Children with learning difficulties or physical disabilities are welcomed. The childminder seeks to support children by working in partnership with parents to help children progress towards their goals. All children benefit from the regular flow of information between the childminder and parents as their welfare and safety is regularly discussed. The childminder ensures she has all relevant parental consents and shares information with the parents about the child's day. Parents also have opportunity to discuss any changes or concerns. For example, they inform

the childminder if their child is to be collected by another relative or friend and agree a password. This ensures that children are appropriately safeguarded as they enter into another's care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder holds appropriate qualifications and has a good understanding of the National Standards. She keeps up to date and swiftly incorporates any changes in policy into her practice. This ensures that children consistently receive high quality care. The effective organisation of time and space means that children enjoy being at the childminder's home. They embrace the freedom to engage in activities of their choice and benefit from the constant supervision which enhances their play and safeguards them from harm.

The childminder's comprehensive policies and procedures work in practice to protect children. For example, she has considered suitable arrangements for children to be cared for by an agreed adult should there be an unforeseen emergency. Children benefit from this forward thinking as their welfare has been discussed with their parents and effectively safeguarded. All documentation is of a good standard and all records are available for inspection. The childminder consistently maintains ratios which ensures children receive high levels of supervision. Records are appropriately signed by parents and stored confidentially, which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being. Overall, children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was required to further develop the daily attendance register to ensure it has a contemporaneous record of children's hours of attendance and request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder has an accurate written daily register which reflects times of arrival and departure. This promotes children's welfare as their movement between care settings is efficiently recorded. Contracts with parents have also been updated to include written permission for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment. These have been consistently obtained for all children. As a result, children can receive prompt care in accordance with their parent's wishes. These improvements have, therefore, had a positive impact on the standards of care.

## **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 nature tank is made safe or inaccessible to children
- increase resources to reflect positive images of gender, culture and disability.

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)