

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 223642  
**Inspection date** 12 April 2007  
**Inspector** Kathryn Mary Harding

**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** 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 2000. She lives with her husband and two children in a small village in North Shropshire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five years, and two children over five years. The childminder can access local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/ or disabilities.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about which foods are good to eat as the childminder promotes healthy eating. They are encouraged to eat healthy and nutritious snacks such as fresh fruit and vegetables.

They are offered regular drinks such as water and milk so that they do not become thirsty and they have fun as they make their own fresh fruit juice with a children's juice maker.

They are cared for in a warm clean setting where they learn the importance of good personal hygiene and personal care through the daily routines, such as ensuring they wash their hands and use individual wipes. The childminder will not accept an ill child so preventing the spread of infection.

The childminder encourages outdoor play and lots of physical exercise such as playing on the see-saw and riding on the scooters. The children go for lots of walks to the fields and down the lane. Indoors there is a wealth of activities such as construction sets and jigsaws to help develop their small scale skills.

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

The provision is good.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and resources, which meet safety standards and are regularly checked. They are encouraged to keep themselves safe outdoors as they are taught how to use the swing properly and are asked not to climb on the furniture indoors.

Children are cared for in an environment which is warm and where there is plenty of space for them to play. Children's art work is displayed in the playroom room making it more welcoming and inviting to children and parents. In order to help keep children safe the childminder visually checks all the rooms prior to them arriving. Safety precautions such as socket covers and a fire guard are in place.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child protection matters and knows the correct procedures to follow if she has a concern, so children's welfare is safeguarded. She has a child protection policy and ensures that she keeps up to date with child protection changes.

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

The provision is good.

Children engage in a wide range of activities which promote their overall development well, such as craft activities, imaginary play and baking. The childminder ensures that children have good opportunities to develop social skills by taking them to toddler groups and to meet other minded children.

Children are happy, confident and interested to learn and spontaneously sing rhymes as they play. They choose what they want to do and the childminder provides the materials or activities and adapts as the day goes along. They ask the childminder questions and use their initiative as they play with the tractors on the ramp. The childminder extends the children's learning and challenges them to think by asking open-ended questions when talking about how fast the tractor can go. Lots of praise and encouragement is given to the children, so promoting their confidence and self-esteem. The childminder supports the children very well in their play as she gets down on the floor as the children pretend to hide in the box.

The childminder has attended training on the 'Birth to three matters' framework and adapts activities such as a baking activity so all children can take part. She ensures that she uses

appropriate equipment such as child-sized tables and chairs and large wooden spoons so younger children can reach and take turns.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has an equal opportunities policy and values and respects each child as an individual. Their awareness of the wider world is extended as the childminder has a range of activities to positively reflect diversity, with some multi-cultural resources being borrowed from a toy library. The children look at different festivals, taste food linked in with the festival and when looking at Chinese New Year, dress up with a dragons head costume.

There are no children currently attending with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. However, the childminder has a good understanding of the importance of working in close partnership with parents and ensuring inclusion for all.

Children behave very well. The childminder has clear strategies in place to deal with unwanted behaviour such as encouraging the children and reasoning with them. Their understanding of right and wrong is increased as they are given explanations why the behaviour is not acceptable so they are able to understand. They are encouraged to share the toys and resources. Lots of praise and encouragement is used with the children, so promoting their self-esteem and self-confidence.

The partnership with parents is good as they all work together to ensure continuity of care. The childminder endeavours to adhere to children's routines offered by parents with regards to the care of the children. Parents are kept well informed as they are given a verbal account of their child's day. The childminder also takes photographs so parents can see what activities their children have been doing during the day. This ensures consistency of care. However, the childminder has no specific procedure to follow if parents wish to raise any concerns, but is aware there needs to be one in place and would investigate any complaint received.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has established procedures for sharing information with parents on a daily basis. She ensures that they understand and sign to acknowledge her policies. However the certificate of registration is not currently displayed so parents are not fully aware of the conditions of registration. Confidentiality is maintained as all paperwork is stored confidentially.

The childminder demonstrates a high regard for children's well-being and offers them a very good level of support. She is keen to enhance her practice and has attended many training courses and workshops. She has gained a NVQ level 3 qualification in Home Based Child Care. The children are at home in the well-organised, child-friendly environment and are confident to initiate their own play and learning.

Overall, children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to have her birth certificate available for inspection and have written parental consents in place. The birth certificate was available for inspection and written parental consents were in place, so helping to protect 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 a complaints procedure is in place and parents are made aware of Ofsted's details should they wish to make a complaint.

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)