

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 224435        |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 09 May 2007   |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Jennie Lenton |

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| <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 1987. She lives with her husband and two children aged thirteen years and seven years in Bucknall, Stoke-on-Trent. The family have a dog. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding with toilet facilities on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden to the rear of the property available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years of age. She walks to and from local schools to collect and take children. She also regularly visits toddler groups in the area. She welcomes children with learning difficulties and physical disabilities.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from infection as the childminder has good procedures and policies in place to promote health. She provides a clean and hygienic home which is maintained to a high standard. For example, she cleans down kitchen surfaces prior to food preparation and stores all pet dishes out of children's reach. She also encourages children to follow sensible

routines to promote their health. For instance, they wash their hands prior to eating and after visiting the toilet or touching the pet dog. The childminder talks to children about 'getting rid of germs so you don't get poorly'. This helps them develop an understanding of the need for good personal hygiene. A healthy lifestyle is further promoted as the childminder provides opportunities for regular physical exercise. Children frequently walk in the local area with the childminder as they collect other children from school or visit the town centre. Additionally they use the childminder's own garden to play on tricycles and move freely. Physical development is therefore effectively encouraged.

The childminder accurately maintains medication and accident records to ensure that children receive the appropriate treatment. Any incident or administration of medicine is signed off by parents at the end of the day which ensures consistency of care. There is a clear policy regarding the exclusion of ill or infectious children which is shared with parents. As a result such children are not brought to the setting, which maintains the health of all. Any child who becomes ill in the childminder's care is monitored and cared for while they await collection.

Children's dietary needs are successfully met. The childminder discusses children's individual requirements with parents and collates information regarding any allergies to ensure the food provided is appropriate. Children enjoy nutritious, well balanced meals. For example, they enjoy pasta and sauce with a selection of vegetables, followed by yogurt and fruit. They have access to drinks throughout the day which ensures they remain hydrated.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel safe in the childminder's warm, welcoming and secure home. The exterior doors are kept locked to prevent children leaving unaccompanied and to stop uninvited visitors from entering. Outside, children play in a fully fenced in garden, which is largely free from hazards. They are directly supervised as they play which reduces the likelihood of accidental injury. However, not all plants have been checked to ensure that they are not poisonous and the door leading into the garage is not secure. As a result, children's safety is not fully promoted.

The childminder is clear about her roles and responsibilities in relation to child protection. She has a sound understanding regarding the signs and symptoms of abuse and is confident about working with other authorities. However, she is not aware of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and their updated contact details. Potentially, this could result in a delay in passing on concerns.

Children access appropriate equipment which is safe and suitable for their age and stage of development, as the childminder regularly checks equipment for wear and tear. The childminder seeks to identify and minimise household risks to further safeguard them from harm. For instance, she stores cleaning products so that they are inaccessible to children and uses safety equipment such as a stair-gate to restrict unsupervised access to the upstairs area. This prioritises children's safety within the home. The childminder has devised an emergency plan and has shared this with the children. This enables them to learn in a calm environment, how to respond in an emergency. As a result, children are clear about the importance of responding promptly to instruction in the event of a fire.

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

The provision is good.

The relaxed home environment means that children are comfortable and content. They communicate with developing confidence as the childminder responds to them positively and with respect. The childminder values what they say and successfully extends their learning through play. For example, she tells them about the toy water pump as they play 'farms' and explains why they were used. This enhances children's understanding as well as effectively encouraging their curiosity and imagination.

Children have a broad range of resources. They independently choose to play in the home corner, with dolls, books or small world figures. Children play together happily as they pretend to make meals and pour cups of tea in the play kitchen. The childminder also plans some activities, for example picnics in the countryside or visiting places of interest in the town. This ensures children have a wide selection of varied activities to develop their social, creative and physical skills. As a result, children are fully engaged in their play and enjoy their time at the home.

Babies and younger children also have their needs effectively met. The childminder aims to ensure that their feeding and sleeping needs are met by responding to their individual routines. She is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and uses this to increase her understanding of their developmental needs. This sound practice promotes outcomes for the younger child.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder aims to treat all children with equal concern. She ensures that they all have the same access to the resources, her time and her attention. She works effectively with parents and records any special requirements to enable her to meet children's individual needs. The childminder has also obtained resources that reflect disability, culture and gender in a positive way. This helps children from all backgrounds respond to diversity with respect. The childminder also welcomes children with learning difficulties or physical disabilities. Displaying a good awareness of how to support children by discussing their abilities and routines, she seeks to ensure that all children receive appropriate individualised care.

There are effective systems in place for the exchange of information. Parents receive comprehensive details as to the care provided as the childminder shares her policies and business arrangements. Parents have time to read through and sign the documents which explain the childminder's practice. Therefore, children are protected as parents agree their care at the start of a placement. Children are also safeguarded as the childminder works with parents on a daily basis to ensure any changes or concerns are quickly responded to. For example, agreeing a password if anyone other than the usual carer is coming to collect the child. Parental consents are consistently obtained. This ensures children are able to receive care in accordance with their parents wishes.

Children behave well. The childminder successfully encourages good behaviour through the use of praise and attention. She uses age-appropriate methods to deal with unwanted behaviour, such as distraction for younger children and reasoning for the more mature. Her approach means that children learn right from wrong in a positive way that enhances their self-esteem.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder holds appropriate qualifications to care for children and ensures that these remain valid. For instance, she updates her first aid certificate regularly. She displays a good understanding of the National Standards and seeks to keep up to date with changes. Children benefit as standards of care are effectively maintained. Through the good organisation of time and routine, the childminder ensures that children enjoy their time in her care. She organises her day well to provide a variety of interesting activities, such as visits to toddler groups.

In the event of an emergency, the childminder has agreed contingency plans with parents, to ensure quality care for their children. She contacts parents to inform them if this becomes necessary and agrees for another adult to provide temporary care while the parents come to collect the children. This ensures that children are always protected by good supervision from an appropriate individual.

Documentation is generally maintained to a good standard and routinely shared with parents. All records are available for inspection and stored with due regard for confidentiality. High levels of adult attention are assured as the childminder consistently keeps to ratios. Children benefit as their welfare and safety are safeguarded by the constant supervision. Overall, children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the provider was required to obtain written parental permission for outings and for children to use public transport; improve children's access to resources that promote images of culture ethnicity and disability and obtain written parental permission for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder now has all relevant consent forms in place which means that children can receive prompt care should an emergency arise. Similarly, although the childminder usually walks with children, they can now use public transport as agreed with the parents. The childminder has also increased the level of resources that reflect different backgrounds and abilities. As a result, children have more opportunities to learn about different traditions and cultures in the world. This helps them to accept diversity and the wider community. The childminder's actions have, therefore, promoted children's well-being and 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 all plants are safe or that hazardous plants are made inaccessible to children
- obtain details of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and ensure that contact numbers are appropriately recorded
- ensure that the garage door is made secure.

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)