

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	210467
<b>Inspection date</b>	03 July 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Christine Holmes

<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 1992. She lives with her husband and two children aged 12 and 19 years in a residential area of Tamworth, Staffordshire within walking distance of local schools, shops and parks. The ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family has a dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding five children on a part time basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted because the childminder employs good hygiene procedures. She has kept her health and hygiene certificate up to date. She has devised a health policy which includes daily cleaning routines to ensure all areas of the house and all equipment and resources are kept very clean. Effective measures are taken to ensure the dog does not pose

any health risks to children. A sickness policy is in place regarding children who are ill which helps to protect others from illness and infection. Children learn the skill of toileting and hand washing, independence is encouraged using appropriate resources such as a 'step up' to the toilet and hand wash basin. This helps children learn how to keep themselves healthy. Arrangements are in place to meet children's needs in the event of illness or injury. This helps to ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of a children becoming ill or sustaining injury.

Children's individual dietary requirements are met in partnership with parents. Children are encouraged to eat healthily options. The childminder has devised a healthy options menu and she has introduced tasting sessions for the children which have included salad wraps. She has taken children to the supermarket to buy fruit and encouraged parents to provide healthy lunch boxes. This helps children to develop an awareness of a healthy lifestyle.

Children have sufficient daily opportunities to experience the fresh air and develop their physical skills as they walk to school on most days and play in the garden in fine weather on equipment such as the swing and small bikes. Indoors children take part in dancing and exercise sessions. During the school holidays the childminder plans a wider range of outdoor activities. For example, children go to the town park where they are able to use large equipment and run around and take part in obstacle course and races. This helps children to develop a positive attitude to exercise. Children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs throughout the day.

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

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe and secure. The childminder gives good emphasis to ensuring children are safeguarded. She attends a number of training events such as 'safety in the home' and she implements a safety policy which includes a risk assessment of the premises and all equipment. As a result the premises are very secure and hazards are minimised. This helps to ensure the risk of accidental injury is minimised. Children are encouraged to develop their awareness of how they can help to keep themselves safe. They take part in regular fire drills which helps them to become familiar with what action to take in the event of an emergency and the childminder teaches them road safety and stranger danger.

The childminder has taken a number of steps to ensure she is fully aware of the procedures she would need to follow in the event of suspected child abuse. She attends training events including an advance child protection course. She has a written policy and procedure and she maintains an up to date documentation for reference. This helps to ensure children are safeguarded.

Children are cared for in a very well-maintained house. They have access to the kitchen for craft activities and meals. They play in the conservatory where there is a child sized table and chairs, a settee for rest and boxes of toys, or they can play in the lounge and dining room. There is a limited amount of space for children to play in the outdoor area and although children often play in this area they do not have free access due to the organisation of furniture in the conservatory. This does not fully ensure children are free to enjoy the outdoors to promote their well-being and independence. There is a suitable range of resources which children use to initiate their own play, although some resources such as books are not kept in the children's play area. This does not fully ensure children's choice of play.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's calm and caring approach. She gets to know the children well having cared for some children since they were babies. This contributes to their continuity of care. Children benefit from the childminder responding positively to them and showing interest in what they say and do. They receive comfort, support and attention which helps to develop their self-esteem and confidence.

The childminder follows a consistent routine which helps children to develop a sense of belonging. She monitors children's progress using the 'Birth to three matters' framework and provides activities to support their development such as paint, water, sand and music and dancing activities which help children to express themselves. Children take part in projects such as growing flowers and looking for wildlife on the way to school. These types of activities help children become interested in the world around them.

Children are developing their independence and they are able to follow their own interest as they play happily together freely using resources such as an interactive desk. They clearly enjoy imaginative play, pretending to drive a bus and feed the doll and they show good levels of interest in mark making and drawing pictures. Children receive a high level of attention. The childminder encourages their learning by joining in with their games, talking about things that are familiar to them and asking appropriate questions to make them think. This promotes language skills. They enjoy trips to local places of interest and participate in group activities with other children at local groups and they enjoy the time spent with other children at the childminder's. This develops their social skills and enables them to play harmoniously. Children are encouraged to be kind and helpful with each other and show a caring attitude and respect for others.

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

The provision is good.

Children behave well and play very well together. They co-operate well during their games, they are able to share, take turns and show consideration of others. As a result, children play in a harmonious environment. They respond well to the childminders guidance, for instance, saying 'thank you' when receiving something, or saying 'please' when asking for something. They receive praise and encouragement throughout the day and their individual efforts are valued by the childminder. This helps to support children's self-esteem and confidence.

Children are becoming aware of wider society and the needs of others. Resources are visible within the play areas such as dolls, play figures and books that represent race and disability. These are used regularly to stimulate discussion. These resources and activities help promote and develop an understanding and respect for others. Although the childminder has no experience of providing care for children with learning difficulties or disabilities, she has a good knowledge and understanding of children's developmental stages. Consequently, she is able to approach parents if concerned about any child's progress and obtain appropriate support to ensure that they can make progress.

Parents receive a useful information about the childminding service, including details of activities. They receive information about what children have been doing, what they have eaten and played with. As a result consistency of care is promoted and children's needs are met.

## Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall children's needs are met. The childminder has a kind and caring approach and she has much experience of caring for children. She continues to update her knowledge of child care issues. She has recently completed a recognised child care qualification and she has attended a number of training events since the last inspection. This has had a positive impact on the quality of care children receive.

Documentation, policies and procedures are well maintained and shared with parents. This helps to ensure the safe efficient management of the provision and contributes to promoting the welfare, care and learning of the children attending.

The childminder organises her time well to meet the individual needs of children, although resources and space are less well organised.

## Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to include Ofsted's contact details in the information given to parents. Parents now receive this information.

## 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):

- improve children's access to resources such as books and to the outdoor play area.

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)