

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	260534
<b>Inspection date</b>	19 June 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Ann Doreen Burford
<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 2001. She lives with her husband and one child aged two years in Wythall near Birmingham. The whole ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully 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 one child under five. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group.

There are parks and shops within walking distance. The childminder has strategies to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The childminder is a qualified nursery nurse (Nursery Nurse Examination Board).

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are learning about meeting their own personal hygiene needs. For example they have their own flannels to wash their hands before eating snacks and meals. The interactive cooperation between the childminder and toddlers is helping with their toilet training. They help to fetch the changing mat and wipes. This is sensitively done in consultation with parents. The childminder maintains her home to a very high standard of cleanliness. This inspires the children as they also actively try to keep the room clean and tidy. During tidy up time after playing with the dough the children use their play vacuum cleaner and mop to help the childminder to clean. The childminder is currently updating her first aid qualification to protect children in the case of an accident.

Children are well nourished because they have fresh fruit and vegetables for snacks. The childminder provides a range of healthy midday meals which children enjoy. She discusses with the children what she intends cooking so they are involved and excited about the meal. There is a range of age-appropriate cups so each child has their own to prevent cross-infection.

Children learn about healthy living through their participation in physical activities both indoor and outdoors. They love dressing-up and dancing to tapes. The childminder also goes with parents and minded children to swimming sessions. Children are protected from the effects of hot weather because they have hats and written permission for the application of sun tan lotion. The temperature can get hot in the playroom so a Velux window has been fitted and a range of fans are used to keep the air moving when the weather is hot.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment because the childminder organises her home and space to create a wonderful child-friendly homely environment. Children have their own playroom and they freely move from this room into the dining area. The childminder has decided not to have a table in there so the children have more free play space. The childminder maintains her home to a very high standard. Children's safety is greatly enhanced because of the excellent security system. Alarms are fitted to all external doors so if the door should open the minder is immediately aware. The front door is kept locked at all times.

Children use an extensive range of suitable and safe equipment which meets current safety standards. The playroom is set out to create a stimulating environment where many of the resources can be freely accessed by the children. Toys are rotated to provide children with a broad range of experiences. Most are stored in the garage which can be accessed via a fire door off the playroom by the childminder.

Children are kept safe on outings in the car because the childminder uses appropriate car seats as provided by parents. Most hazardous materials are inaccessible to children. However, some cleaning materials are stored at low level in the garage and whilst younger children would struggle to open the heavy fire door it could be opened by older or stronger children.

Children are well protected because the childminder understands her role and responsibilities in child protection and are able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary. She has the latest guidance to use as a reference.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children have a strong sense of belonging and high self-esteem. There are impressive strategies in place to support this such as children having their own photograph album that they relish looking at to discuss their past experiences and activities. The childminder is excellent at invoking children's enthusiasm as they discuss past events and recall their feelings and experiences. They giggle as they repeat familiar words or as they learn new ones. Photographs include wildlife the children have observed on a previous outing and they love the opportunity to look at them again as they learn the names of the creatures such as slug and duck. A particular favourite photograph is a family member swimming with dolphins which invokes lots of excitement.

There is a flexible timetable for the week so children have a balance of activities and a broad range of experiences. The childminder uses her extensive knowledge and understanding to plan activities to promote children's development. She uses the ethos of the 'Birth to three matters' framework effectively for the care of younger children.

Children are motivated and fully involved in the wide range of fun activities as their learning is extended. For example they play with dough, they choose the colours and are very busy moulding and baking. They have the play house and other kitchen replica toys as part of this imaginative play. They take their 'food' for the adults to try, the childminder readily joins in and extends this play. She has a lovely warm nature and interacts with the children so they develop their confidence. She uses her imaginative play skills well with the children.

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

The provision is good.

Children feel a strong sense of belonging because they are made so welcome in the family home. The childminder uses her settling-in period to ensure she becomes familiar with each child's individual needs. Good arrangements are made to ensure all children are included. Children become aware of the wider world through their participation in activities and their use of appropriate resources which promote equal opportunities. Children are developing their understanding of their place in the local community through visits to local facilities such as the park and toddler groups.

Children with learning difficulties or physical disabilities have their needs met because of the relevant experience of the childminder. She has worked in specialist settings and has a sensitive approach which promotes inclusive play. The childminder has knowledge of basic signing although she has not recently used it.

Children are extremely well behaved as they play cooperatively and harmoniously together beyond their age and stage of development. They benefit from a calm and supportive approach and learn right from wrong through careful explanation and consistency. Praise and support helps them start to develop self-esteem. Children understand responsible behaviour because of the simple clear rules such as sharing and being kind. Children are busy and activities change just at the right time so they are always purposefully occupied.

Children benefit from the childminder's strong partnership with parents and carers who act together and give consistent messages with effective sharing of information. There is a daily verbal exchange of information as well as written confirmation of the personal care and activities through the use of a daily diary. There is a folder of basic information available to share with parents so they are aware of the services offered by the childminder.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the knowledge and understanding of the experienced childminder. She holds a relevant childcare qualification and updates her knowledge through the internet and reading guidance material such as child protection and the 'Birth to three matters' framework. She organises time, space and resources to ensure children have a stimulating day and are well cared for. Children receive close support and individual attention because of the way the childminder organises the attendance of children. She chooses to limit numbers to ensure children have high quality care. The organisation of her service includes how she thinks about resources and rotates them so children are purposefully occupied and enjoy their time in the setting. Children are protected from harm as the childminder is aware of the importance of ensuring that all unvetted visitors are suitable and are not left unattended with children in the setting or whilst on outings.

Documentation is stored securely to maintain confidentiality. Policies and procedures mostly work in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. However, the way some records are kept such as the attendance register means they are not always readily available on the premises. Overall children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve her strategies for health and safety. The childminder has accessed some first aid training through the National Childbirth Trust and is currently updating her first aid qualification. The emergency evacuation procedure is displayed on the back of the garage door and is discussed with parents and older children. Children's safety has been further enhanced by limiting their access to potential hazards such as poisonous plants and glass. Written permission for transporting children in a vehicle is in place. All of these arrangements have improved the outcomes for children.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration 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 the 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 children cannot access the garage unsupervised
- ensure all the record keeping and organisation of documentation is kept up-to-date and readily available for inspection.

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)