

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY221860
<b>Inspection date</b>	08 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Ann Winifred Harrison
<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 2003. She lives with her partner and three year old son in Norton Canes near Cannock. The whole of the ground floor and two bedrooms are 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 two children under five years on a part time basis. The childminder drives to the local school to take and collect children. The childminder attends a carer and toddler group on a regular basis. She holds a relevant childcare qualification.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and comfortable home where they learn to follow simple health and hygiene practices to promote their good health. They learn to wash their hands before eating and after toileting. The childminder provides individual clean flannels and towels each day, this helps to prevent cross-infection. Children's good health and well-being is promoted

because the childminder obtains appropriate information from parents about children's individual health care needs, including consent to seek emergency medical advice and treatment. She is aware of the procedures to follow if administering medication and to record any accidents or injuries. She has attended appropriate training to update her first aid qualifications and a suitably stocked first aid kit is available. This ensures children receive appropriate treatment in the case of injury.

Children are well nourished. The childminder follows parents' wishes to ensure that children's individual dietary needs and preferences are met. Healthy snacks and lunches are offered each day, for example, fresh fruit, such as, blueberries and strawberries and wholemeal sandwiches of cheese with cucumber and carrot sticks. Children are offered drinks at regular intervals and they can also access drinks whenever they wish to. This promotes children's understanding of the benefits of healthy food and drink.

Children enjoy a good range of energetic physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They use a wide variety of outdoor toys and equipment. For example, they climb up the slide and slide into the ball pool. They ride bikes and sit and ride toys and they enjoy playing hide and seek with the childminder. The children also have regular opportunities to take part in indoor physical activities when they attend a local toddler group. The childminder is beginning to use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to plan for physical play to enhance the physical development of babies and young children.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very secure, safe environment where potential risks are identified and minimised. This means that children's risk of accidental injury is limited and they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder has completed detailed risk assessments to ensure all areas are safe. Children are closely supervised at all times and their awareness of safety is promoted through their everyday activities within the home and while on outings. The childminder reminds the children the importance of staying safe and the precautions they can take to protect themselves. For example, all children are taught road safety and they know what they must do in the event of an emergency evacuation exercise, as these are practised regularly. The childminder uses stories such as 'Little Red Riding Hood' to talk to children about staying safe and not talking to strangers. She invites the community police officer to talk to the children. This helps children to develop an awareness of how to keep themselves safe. The childminder follows good practice guidelines to keep children safe when travelling in a vehicle.

Children have access to a stimulating range of good quality toys and equipment which are well maintained and conform to safety standards. Resources are accessible to children so that they can select toys and play materials for themselves. Children are protected from potential harm and neglect as the childminder has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities in safeguarding children. She is familiar with the signs and symptoms of abuse and is aware of the procedures to follow should she ever have any concerns about the children in her care. She understands the procedures regarding any allegations of abuse whilst a child is in the care of the childminder. This means children are well protected.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy, comfortable and confident with the childminder who has a kind and affectionate approach to the children in her care. This helps children to develop their confidence and self-esteem. The childminder plans a range of creative activities for children, such as, collage and painting and children's work is displayed, which shows children their work is valued. She develops children's mathematical thinking by counting in everyday situations, such as, counting the balls from the ball pool as they put them in a long tube and counting when they play hide and seek. The childminder is actively involved in children's play and routines. She gets down to the children's level supporting the development of their language and curiosity with good levels of humour, smiles and positive encouragement.

Children enjoy their time at the setting and are making good progress in their learning, leisure and personal development. They are happy and settled in the welcoming environment. They enjoy playing with an interesting range of toys and equipment, which are appropriate for their age and stage of development. They discover the natural world as they visit the park, plant pansies and look at mini-beasts in the garden. They enjoy playing with play dough and they use their imagination as they play with dried pasta in the play house. All children have good opportunities to develop their social skills as they play with other children at a toddler group. The childminder takes children on regular outings to extend their interests, for example, they go to a garden centre, a farm and a zoo. The childminder is beginning to use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to provide activities for babies and young children. For example, she provides sensory toys in baskets and musical toys for babies. She undertakes some observations of the children and what they can do. However, she is not yet using these to plan for their next steps in learning to ensure that children are making progress.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities to increase children's awareness of diversity. For example, they make fans and try new food for Chinese New Year, and they draw Rangoli patterns to celebrate Diwali. Although the childminder has some resources that promote positive images of others, these are limited and the childminder recognises that this is an area that could be improved to develop children's understanding of others. The childminder has good knowledge and understanding of how to provide appropriate care and support for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She understands how to create an accessible environment and how to work closely with parents and other agencies to provide individual care to support children's welfare and development.

Children learn about responsible behaviour as the childminder is a positive role model and has a good understanding of appropriate managing strategies depending on children's level of understanding and maturity. The childminder deals with behaviour in a calm and consistent manner, she encourages children to be independent and show respect for others. Regular communication with parents enables any behavioural changes to be shared and ensures a consistent approach is maintained. She talks to parents each day so that any behavioural incidents are discussed and any patterns of unwanted behaviour are quickly recognised and positively supported. She reinforces positive behaviour through meaningful praise and by use of a 'My Passport' system where children eagerly receive stickers to put in their own passport to show parents. This helps to promote good behaviour.

Children benefit from the trusting relationships between their parents and the childminder. Daily communication ensures children are looked after according to their parents' wishes. The childminder shares verbal and written information with parents about childminding arrangements. They receive good information about regulatory policies and procedures, such as, the complaints procedure and Ofsted contact details. This means that parents are fully informed of all procedures regarding their child's care and well-being.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the National Standards, which ensures children are effectively protected in her care. All policies have been developed in line with guidelines and regulations. All adults on the premises have completed the necessary vetting procedures. Children are not left unsupervised with any person who is not vetted. The childminder has attended frequent training courses to support her registration. She demonstrates a high level of commitment to improving and developing her knowledge and skills and evaluating her practice. This positively enhances children's development and progress.

Children's needs are met effectively through the good use of space and resources. Their care is enhanced by efficient and effective organisation. The childminder has a routine and prepares for each session with relevant age-appropriate resources. Free play, messy time, play and learn and outdoor play are included to ensure children have a good balance of educational and developmental experiences. Children are able to access resources and toys to initiate their own play and learning because the childminder has organised the toys and resources within children's reach.

All policies, records and procedures are in place and are used well in practice. This promotes the welfare, care and learning of all children, according to the wishes of their parents. The childminder provides a number of written policies and procedures, which ensure parents are well informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to the continuity of the children's care.

Overall, children's needs are met

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. To address this the childminder has attended child protection training and has reviewed documentation to ensure she is fully aware of how to recognise and report any concerns. This ensures children are protected.

## **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):

- develop further the use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to plan for children's individual next steps in learning
- increase resources that reflect diversity.

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)