

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** EY344998  
**Inspection date** 26 April 2007  
**Inspector** Ann Doubleday

**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 November 2006. He lives with his wife and children aged eight, four and 23 months. The whole of the ground floor, first floor bathroom, and second and third bedrooms are used for childminding activities. There is a garden for outside play.

The childminder works with his wife who is also a registered childminder. When working on his own and not responsible for other children, he is registered to care for six children at any one time. When working with another childminder at the above premises, he may care for a total of 10 children under eight years. The childminder is currently working with his wife and together they are currently caring for four pre-school children, two children of school age and one child over eight years. The childminders walk to local schools to take and collect children. They are providing overnight care for two children on occasions. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and attends local parent and toddler groups with the children. The family has a cat.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities, which contribute to their good health. They benefit from regular walks and visits to the park and toddler groups. They also use physical skills indoors, for example, as they knead dough to make bread. Children gain new skills and develop their confidence because the childminder has an excellent understanding of appropriate activities and the level of support individuals require. Children are able to rest or be active according to their individual needs.

Children are healthy due to the excellent practice followed by the childminder. He teaches children the importance of strict hand washing routines and provides all the equipment they need to wash their hands independently including paper towels in the bathroom and wipes in the playroom. The childminder remains alert to reinforce good practice as necessary to give children a thorough understanding of good hygiene. Effective procedures are in place for nappy changing and the childminder sets a good example as he wears disposable gloves and washes his own hands to prevent the spread of infection.

Children's health and welfare are of high priority to the childminder, who ensures they play in a very clean environment. He has devised an excellent range of policies and procedures, which are shared with parents, to support his childminding practice. For example, children who are infectious are not allowed to attend in order to prevent the spread of contagious ailments to other children. There are excellent accident, sickness and medication procedures in place and written consent has been requested from parents for seeking medical advice in an emergency. This means children's health needs are well met.

The childminder provides snacks and meals that are nutritious and varied. They enjoy lots of fruit and vegetables and the childminder takes account of the parents' wishes and the children's choices. An initiative entitled 'new food Fridays' has been introduced to the children, where they are encouraged to try new foods including fruit and vegetables once a week and receive a certificate for doing so. Children have their own cups and can access drinks whenever they need to, which helps them recognise and respond to their body's needs. Children develop their social skills through eating together at the table. A daily diary containing details of the children's food intake is kept.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm and welcoming home where most risks are identified and minimised. This means they are able to move around freely and independently. The security of the premises is good as the doors are kept locked. The childminder gives priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe. There are some procedures in place to keep children safe in the event of an emergency. Appropriate fire safety equipment is in place and a fire evacuation is practised with the children during the day, however, children that stay overnight have not been made aware of the emergency evacuation procedure that would be followed when they are sleeping.

Children use a range of good quality toys and equipment which are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Toys are stored in boxes on low storage units so that children can

help themselves. They enjoy playing with the toys and resources available. The childminder ensures toys are clean, safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Children are effectively safeguarded because the childminder clearly understands his role in child protection. He has a sound awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect, and the procedure to follow should a concern arise.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of child development and this means that children's personal, social and intellectual development is well fostered and supported. Children develop their confidence and self-esteem due to the good relationship they have with the childminder. He talks to the children enthusiastically and they respond positively. Children receive lots of praise and encouragement, which makes them feel good about themselves.

The childminder provides a variety of interesting activities and resources. He has a daily routine, but is flexible to allow for unforeseen opportunities. Children select their own activities from the easily accessible resources and also take part in planned activities. Recent topics have included colours, numbers and Easter. The childminder is interested in what the children do and say and becomes involved in their play. Consequently, children are interested in the activities and are settled and happy in the childminder's care. Creative activities include colouring, play dough, card making and gluing and sticking. Baking is also a feature of the setting. Children take part in outings and have enjoyed visits to the local park, toddler groups and shops.

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

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the setting and participate in all activities because the childminder values and respects their individuality. Children have access to a range of resources that promote positive images of the wider world. However, there are limited activities provided to teach children fully about diversity. Children learn about the local community as they take part in visits and outings, for example, as they visit the local toddler groups. The childminder has a good understanding of each child as an individual and uses this to provide activities which all children find enjoyable and interesting. He has learned some key words in Arabic and German in order to support children that are bi-lingual.

Children understand responsible behaviour and respond well to the consistent boundaries that the childminder has in place, which help them feel secure. They develop good confidence and positive self-esteem through receiving praise and encouragement. As a result, children are well behaved.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the childminder has developed with their parents. Parents' views about their child's needs are actively sought before the child starts and the policies and procedures of the setting are shared with them. This enables the childminder to meet each child's individual needs. Daily verbal exchanges mean information is shared effectively. A complaints policy is in place, and a complaints log has been set up, this means parents know how to complain to the regulator should they need to do so.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease with the childminder and in the environment. This means that they are confident to initiate their own play and learning. Adult-to-child ratios are maintained with good organisation of time to meet children's individual needs. The childminder has attended some of the mandatory childminder training and has booked onto a first aid course in order to complete this requirement.

There are effective systems in place for the sharing of information with parents about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. The childminder has a range of policies and procedures in place. The required documentation is available, well organised and stored confidentially and the certificate of registration is displayed. This means parents are aware of the conditions of registration.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **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 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):

- make sure that children are aware of procedures for emergency evacuation of the premises when staying overnight
- increase the range of activities that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

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)