



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	322225
<b>Inspection date</b>	07 September 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Wendy Brooks

<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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1995. She lives with her husband and their 16-year-old daughter. An Assistant is also employed.

Minded children are cared for in two ground floor rooms with access to the dining table in the kitchen for messy play and eating. The children have access to the fully enclosed rear garden and are taken on many local outings and visits to various mother and toddler groups in the locality. Childminding takes place during the school term.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children under 8 years. There are currently seven children on roll.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene by following daily routines such as washing hands after visiting the toilet. They are protected from infection because the childminder follows hygiene routines during nappy changing and a sick child policy ensures that children who are ill are excluded. Children's medical needs are discussed with parents and they are cared for appropriately when ill.

Children enjoy a range of physical activities that contribute to their good health. Daily activities include opportunities for children to be outdoors where they can develop their physical skills through activities such as riding bicycles, ball games and skittles. Regular visits to the park provide opportunities for children to run around and develop their large motor skills. Children are able to rest and be active according to their individual needs.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. Their dietary needs and preferences are met as the childminder provides nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to them. Children begin to understand the importance of healthy eating through discussions about the foods they eat.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well maintained environment where most risks are identified and minimised allowing children to move around safely, freely and independently. They learn how to keep themselves safe on the premises, for example, fire drills are carried out regularly so that children know what to do in the case of an emergency.

Furniture, equipment and toys that are of good quality and in a safe condition are provided to promote children's development and welfare. Most resources are stored within easy reach for children, allowing them some independence when choosing what to play with.

Children are kept safe from harm through the childminder's understanding of child protection and welfare. However, she is not aware of current procedures in line with government and local Area Child Protection Committee guidelines.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Warm relationships between the childminder and the children contribute to children's sense of belonging. Children also relate well with each other and younger children are beginning to socialise through regular attendance at local toddler groups. Children play a matching game in a group and older children help younger children to find their matching pairs.

Children take part in an adequate range of appropriate indoor and outdoor activities, although these are not always sufficiently challenging to help children to take the next step. Children enjoy dressing up and dancing to familiar songs and rhymes. Younger children and babies are provided with some developmentally appropriate toys and resources, although there are limited opportunities for stimulating activities and interactions to fully promote their development.

Children's self-esteem is developing as a result of the childminder encouraging and praising them and valuing what they have to offer. Their communication skills are developing because the childminder allows time to talk and listen to them. She encourages them to talk about what they are doing and sensitively supports their language development.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Positive relationships with parents have been established to help promote children's wellbeing, development and progress. Parents are kept verbally informed about their child's day and activities. This enables the childminder to meet each child's individual needs.

The childminder uses positive strategies for managing behaviour. This helps the children to understand the boundaries set and to behave well. The childminder effectively supports younger children and all children are encouraged to share and take turns.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and all children are included in activities with equal access to resources. The childminder provides a selection of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity. Children learn about the local community through regular visits to toddler groups, shops and the local library.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home and at ease with the childminder and in the environment. This means they are confident in their play. Adult-child ratios are maintained which means that children's needs are met.

Space is suitably managed and resources adequately organised to ensure children's welfare, although the childminder must ensure that she meets the conditions of her registration at all times.

Parents are kept informed of their children's progress and details about the provision. They are encouraged to share comments and concerns with the childminder. This contributes to continuity in the children's care.

Acceptable policies and procedures are in place to ensure children are protected from harm and their wellbeing and development are supported. However, there are no written parental consents in place to take children off the premises or to transport them in the childminder's vehicle.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

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

Since the last inspection, the childminder has improved her partnership with parents and carers by providing parents with a copy of the complaints procedure and contact details for Ofsted.

Children's safety and welfare has improved through the development of a Child Protection policy, a behaviour policy and the regular practice and recording of fire drills.

The childminder has improved children's health and medical needs by providing parents with a written sick child policy to ensure children with infectious diseases are excluded from the setting.

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

There are no complaints to report.

## **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 satisfactory. 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):

- provide a wider range of activities to help children's development in all areas, to include more stimulating developmentally appropriate activities for babies, for example by using Birth to three matters

- update knowledge of current child protection procedures
- ensure written permission is in place for children to be taken off the premises and to be transported in the childminder's vehicle
- ensure conditions of registration are always met.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)