

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	110981
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Amanda Shedden

<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 has been a registered childminder since 1986. She lives with her partner in a three bedroom semi detached house, situated in Little Basing close to local amenities.

The ground floor and bedrooms of the property are used for childminding. The registration is for six children aged under eight years. At present she is caring for 11 children up to the age of 12 years on a part time basis, many of whom are cared for after school only. There is an enclosed garden available for outside play.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to have a healthy lifestyle. They have regular opportunities to enjoy fresh air. Each day they walk to the local school and stop to play in the local park. During the day they can play in the well equipped garden, enjoying the challenges of pushing cars up the hill and sitting in them as they roll quickly down the hill. They learn how to swing themselves, coordinating their limbs in and out to make the swing move.

Children are offered regular snacks and meals in line with their dietary needs. Children are given healthy options such as a range of fruits to eat at snack time and different fillings for lunch; however parents are not informed of the foods their child has had. All the children enjoy eating the strawberries that they have seen growing in the garden. Children sit together with the childminder to eat, making it a social occasion. Children have easy access to drinks each having their own cup to prevent cross infection. Children wash their hands before eating and they sit down automatically before having a drink.

Children are cared for in a home that is clean and tidy and where daily routines are in place which promote children's understanding about personal hygiene. The childminder ensures they wash their hands properly at appropriate times such as after outside play or after using the toilet. The childminder ensures all areas that the children access are clean, the potties and changing mats are cleaned after each use and the nappies are disposed of immediately. All necessary documentation is in place and shared with the parents ensuring they would know if their child has had an accident or if medication had been administered.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder's home provides a welcoming environment for children. There are photographs of children in the kitchen and dining room (which is the main play room) and there are commercial posters making the rooms bright and cheerful. Their names are displayed on the wall with photographs of themselves undertaking a range of activities, giving children a sense of belonging.

Children are cared for in a home where risks have been identified and minimised. The childminder is vigilant in ensuring that children are safe at all times, they are always fully supervised. In the garden the gate is locked and the pond is securely covered. Indoors all areas that the children access are safe, dangerous substances are locked away and there is a fire blanket and extinguisher in place. Children are encouraged to gain an understanding of their own safety; they are made aware of what to do if an emergency evacuation was required. When using local amenities the childminder reminds the children of the rules of that particular environment, for instance staying inside the fenced area. Young children have the same colour sun hats ensuring the childminder can easily identify her minded children when using public parks. Children know they have to wear sun cream to stop them getting burnt and older children are encouraged to apply their own cream, supervised by the childminder to ensure it has been applied correctly.

Children are relaxed and comfortable at the childminder's. They move around the downstairs, self selecting from the range of suitable resources and activities. Many of the resources are at a low level encouraging the children to be independent. The childminder rotates the resources regularly ensuring that the children are offered a wide range of stage appropriate toys that stimulate and interest them.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted by the childminder's clear understanding and knowledge of the procedures to follow if she had concerns about a child.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled at the childminder's. They enjoy the positive interaction with the childminder, who is aware of their needs, allowing children to play on their own or joining

them if they wish. They benefit from the good relationships they have with the childminder and each other sharing resources and the childminder's time.

Children are involved in a range of activities that support their all round development. They play together making a wooden train track, pushing the trains around the track. Children enjoy the challenge of blowing bubbles, chasing them around the garden trying to catch them before they pop. They love 'painting' the wall and patio using water and brushes, younger children copying the actions and words of the older children. The childminder supports their imaginative skills providing resources to enable the children to make a camp in the garden. They push and pull garden chairs into a circle and the childminder helps them cover them with a large sheet making a tent effect under the chairs. The positive input from the childminder supports the children doing most of it for themselves using pegs to attach the sheet to the chairs. They beam with pride as they sit in their tent.

Older children proudly read out words that they can read which have been placed on the fridge. Around the home there are key words placed to encourage children's reading skills such as hot and cold above the bathroom taps. Children enjoy looking at books and enjoy stories that are read to them.

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

The provision is good.

All children are treated as individuals, their personal routines are identified and activities are adapted to ensure all children can reach their full potential. Children learn about the world around them through activities, resources and through discussion. Children are encouraged to talk about their home and family, learning from each other about similarities and differences they have.

Children's behaviour is very good because they know what is expected of them, for instance having to sit to eat and drink, showing consideration for each other and using good manners such as please and thank you and requesting to get down from the table when they have finished eating. The childminder praises and encourages each child, focusing on the positives to boost their self esteem and confidence.

Positive relationships are built with the parents; many relationships are long term having cared for their children for many years. Parents receive individual feedback regarding their child's time with the childminder on a daily basis. Time is taken to discuss the changing needs of the children and the daily routines reflect the wishes of the parents ensuring children receive continuity of care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The family home is set up for the arrival of children; they are able to move freely around the downstairs selecting their chosen activity independently, which enables them to feel at ease within the well organised environment.

The children are kept safe from other adults by the good supervision from the childminder. The childminder is undertaking the NVQ Level 3 in Childcare and Education enabling her to refresh her skills and knowledge to support the children.

The childminder has clear policies that she has designed to support the efficient running of and to keep parents fully informed of her services and care of the children. Parents are given copies of the policies and procedures; there are also posters on display providing parents with contact numbers that they may need.

Records are accurate and up to date, confidentiality is respected and all aspects covered. The childminder's good understanding of the requirements of her registration ensures that the children are kept safe and overall the childminder meets needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was required to ensure the register had the children's full names and specific times of when they arrive and depart the premises. This is now in place, the register reflects all necessary details required.

### **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):

- inform parents of the foods that the children have consumed each day

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)