



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	123954
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 June 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Paula Durrant

<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.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1989. She lives with her husband and three children aged eighteen, fourteen and twelve years in Hertford Heath, a village situated between Hertford and Hoddesdon. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding seven children between the ages of four months and eleven years. At the time of inspection one minded child was present. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler

group and takes children to the local library and park on a regular basis. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy an appropriate range of activities that contribute to their good health. The garden is used regularly and trips to the local park; shops; library and toddlers group are frequent. Young children sleep according to their needs, either in a travel cot in the living room or in their buggy at the expressed wish of the parent, under the watchful eye of the childminder.

Children are cared for in a friendly family home, where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care through the daily routine. They understand the importance of washing their hands prior to meals; after using the toilet facilities and when returning from outside play.

Sound, unwritten procedures are in place for children who are unwell and the childminder maintains separate accident and medication records. The childminder has a written agreement to enable her to seek emergency medical advice and treatment for the children. Children are well protected and stay healthy because the childminder has a suitable knowledge of first aid and sufficient resources to managed and give general emergency aid.

Children are beginning to understand the benefits of a healthy diet as they enjoy fresh fruit snacks provided by the childminder. The childminder meets the children's specific dietary needs working in partnership with the parent, such as in the provision of packed lunches and adhering to children's likes and dislikes. Children have access to regular drinks of water or squash.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure home environment where due emphasis is given to identifying and minimising risk. This means they are able to play safely, freely and independently. The childminder gives appropriate priority to helping children understand to keep themselves safe and to maintaining children's safety outside the home. For example, babies are suitably restrained in pushchairs whilst older children are encouraged to hold hands or the pushchair when walking and age appropriate seating is provided when transporting children in a vehicle.

Children independently select activities from a suitable range of resources; which are age appropriate and maintained in a good state of repair. The childminder monitors and supervises children closely when accessing all equipment. The childminder has all required procedures and documents in place to promote children's safety and welfare. For example, the childminder holds a current first aid qualification and has a

sound understanding of child protection issues in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable in their environment and make themselves at home. They have a clear understanding of areas to which they have free access. Children make independent choices in their play as they choose from a selection of well prepared and suitable age appropriate play materials. Through discussion the childminder talked about the variety of activities and events that children participate in. For example, craft activities, cooking and special trips to local places of interest, such as 'Paradise Park'. The childminder does not keep any records or photographs of the activities which the children enjoy.

The childminder is attentive to the individual needs of the children. She recognises that children have differing needs and ensures that there are areas to both rest and play; dependent on the children's preference. Through discussion the childminder stated that she is aware of the need to develop her skills in line with current supportive guidance in how to teach children through play. She currently uses the National Childminding Association (NCMA) 'Who Minds' magazine to gain ideas of activities and is currently accessing the Birth to Three matters guidance.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a suitable range of resources and activities to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. For example, children learn about their local community as they visit places of interest, such as Harlow Park to feed the ducks as well as routine visits to the mother and toddler group and local parks.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The normal daily routine meets their needs as discussed with their parents. The childminder regularly shares daily discussion with all parents and carers. This ensures a good partnership and parents/carers remain well informed about the service provided and their children's activities. Children have an understanding of the appropriate well to behave and are courteous in response to the childminder. For example, an older child returning from school said thank you without prompt when fetching their things.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children clearly feel at home and at ease within this suitably organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The childminder effectively uses her unwritten procedures and routines to promote the

welfare, care and learning of the children and maintains all required documentation. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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

At the last Children's Act inspection the childminder was required to ensure the daily register is kept up to date accurately, noting times of arrival and departure. This is now in place. The childminder was also requested to increase provision for home play and to obtain written permission for seeking emergency aid and administering medication. New resources have been purchased and consent is now in place from parents and carers.

### **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):

- enhance current play provision further for children under the age of 3, for example, through the use of the Birth to Three framework
- develop ways of evidencing the range of activities on offer to the children

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