

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	104769
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 July 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Judith Harris

<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 1992. She lives with her husband in Fremington village, near Barnstaple. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children over five before and after school. The family has a dog and a cat.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is clearly well supported by the childminder's good health and hygiene routines. Appropriate health and hygiene guidelines are followed. Children use good hand-washing routines. They wash their hands after toileting and before eating or playing outside. The childminder has a good supply of wipes for children to use to keep hands clean at all times. The childminder's home is clean and well maintained. She has a dog and cat and she takes care to ensure that good hygiene is maintained at all times. The childminder has suitable paperwork

and records for the administration of medication. She demonstrates a clear understanding of the procedures for record keeping if she has to administer medication. Children have daily outdoor activities in the garden where they have a wide range of toys and equipment for play. Children are playing with skipping ropes and they ask to play with the skittles in the garden. The childminder encourages the children to develop their skills and to use the skipping rope appropriately. Children have quiet and active times within the daily routine; children are able to choose to be active or to rest and relax with quieter activities.

Children are provided with healthy balanced drinks and snacks. The effective partnerships with parents help to ensure that any individual dietary restrictions are fully met. Children are confident to ask the childminder for a drink and snack when they want one.

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean, well organised home where they can move around safely. Children play in the dining room where they can sit at the table to play games and draw and there is clear floor space for other activities. Children play safely in the garden and they are well supervised both in the home and on outings. When children walk to and from school with the childminder they are learning to cross roads safely. The childminder has carried out risk assessments on her home and taken steps to minimise any risks. She has suitable safety and fire safety equipment.

Children have an age appropriate range of play equipment and resources. The children can safely access all the toys and games and freely make choices about what to play with. The childminder monitors the children's choice of toys to ensure that they are suitable and that they use them appropriately. She talks to the children about playing safely with the toys and equipment. Toys and equipment are checked on regular basis to ensure they are safe and clean.

Children are protected because the childminder is familiar with the paperwork and procedures for recording and reporting child protection issues. The childminder has experience of using first aid and has completed previous courses. She has a course booked for August 2007.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and at home with the childminder, they are confident with good levels of independence suitable to their ages. The children have direct access to all the play equipment and resources and can help themselves freely. Children choose what activities they want to play with daily. The childminder ensures that the range of activities meets children's needs. Children play with outdoor play equipment and they have games, puzzles and drawing inside. The activities provided are suitable for the age range of the children cared for. The childminder is making good use of her interaction with the children to support their play. She encourages the children by praising their achievements and joining in with their games. The childminder organises the day to allow times for outdoor activities and for quiet play. The childminder takes a good amount of information about children from parents. She speaks to parents daily and keeps her information up to date. She takes time to get to know each child well so she is able to meet the children's individual needs.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and comfortable and clearly have good sense of belonging in the childminder's home. The childminder takes a good amount of information from the parents to ensure she knows the children well and is able to meet their individual needs. All children are treated with equal concern and the childminder ensures children are able to take part in all activities. Children are beginning to learn about wider world issues at school and the childminder talks to them about what they learn. She answers any questions they have honestly. However the activities provided by the childminder to help children gain an understanding of the wider world are limited.

Children are well behaved and the childminder supports positive behaviour by keeping children busy with activities. Children are supported to make choices and develop good levels of independence. The childminder uses positive strategies and encourages the children to develop skills for self control. If there are any behaviour problems the childminder talks to the children in a calm positive manner.

Children's individual needs are well met through the childminder's effective partnership with parents. The childminder makes agreements with parents and has contracts for each child. She talks with parents everyday to share information and to talk about the children's changing needs.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children play in well organised play space in which they are comfortable and safe. Children are able to move around safely and they move confidently from room to room; they know where the toys are and ask for snacks and drinks. Children are clearly well supported and have good levels of supervision.

Children's records and a daily register are in place and up to date. There are medication and accident records and contracts for all children and all records are well organised and kept in a confidential manner.

The childminder talks to parents about the policies and procedures used. Daily discussions with parents ensure the childminder continues to meet the children's individual needs.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The childminder has met most of the recommendations set at the last inspection. The childminder has made herself familiar with the procedures for reporting any concerns she has about a child in her care. She ensures that children do not have unsupervised access to the front door. The childminder has developed suitable records for the administration of medication. The childminder has made some effort to obtain positive image play equipment and resources however she has found this difficult.

## Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 records 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):

- extend the range of activities that support children to gain an understanding of the wider world

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)