

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	138874
<b>Inspection date</b>	31 July 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Helen Ann Woods

<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 registered since 1998. She lives with her husband and two children one of whom is aged under eight years. They live in a residential area within walking distance of schools, shops, parks, local amenities and transport links. She is registered to care for a maximum of five children aged under eight years. Currently she has seven children on roll. She often cares for children who attend Breakspear school.

All areas of the property are used for childminding except the main bedroom and spare bedroom. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family have a pet dog.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to learn good personal hygiene such as washing their hands and why this is important in maintaining their good health. There are regular opportunities to take part

in physical activities such as walking to the local school, visiting parks and when meeting with other childminders at local groups in the area. She minimises the risk of cross infection to children through good practice and clear health policies.

The childminder adheres to parent's wishes and ensures that any dietary and medical needs are clearly recorded on the children's records. She obtains written permission for emergency procedures and holds a current first aid certificate to safeguard children's welfare.

The childminder provides all the meals and children are encouraged to eat healthy food. She does this by including the children in helping to shop. They choose their own fruits, devise their own menus and prepare what they have bought. This has resulted in the children enjoying their food more by taking an interest in what they are eating. Drinking water is always available for children to help themselves whenever they require it.

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

The provision is good.

Close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust and enable them to be self confident. Children rest and play in safe surroundings because the childminder understands her responsibility to safeguard them at all times. She identifies areas of potential risk and takes steps to minimise these.

Children use a variety of play equipment and resources that are appropriate and of a safe and clean condition. The childminder regularly checks items to ensure that there are no broken parts that could harm them.

Good organisation of toys means that children can freely access some play materials whilst others, that require adult supervision, are kept out of their reach. Children learn how to keep themselves safe with the support of the minder. For instance, she sets clear boundaries for when children are out and about and when they are in the car.

The childminder ensures that she promotes children's welfare appropriately. She has a secure awareness of possible signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect and the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child. She also ensures that she informs parents and carers of her responsibility with regard to this. She has a valid first aid certificate and takes suitable precautions to protect children when they are in the presence of persons who have not been vetted.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are happy, confident and very settled in the homely environment. Children are captivated and inspired by an extensive range of stimulating, relevant activities relating to their needs especially in the varied types of creative activities provided. They have the opportunity for daily walks and visits to school, local parks and activity groups.

They eagerly and actively participate in the experiences offered to them. Children are self assured because of the excellent support and encouragement they receive from the childminder. They are thoroughly engrossed in their play with real buggies and life size dolls, dressing up and taking their babies out for a walk around the garden.

Children relate very well to each other. The childminder is enthusiastic and experienced; she uses her wealth of experience to plan an extensive range of opportunities and activities, which are organised around particular themes of interest. They are involved with the food shopping and use the scanners to check the contents in the shopping trolley. A cooking activity is planned with children deciding what ingredients they will need to buy and then to go and shop for it. This means that the activity covers all areas of learning.

Children benefit from the childminder's highly skilled ability to balance her time interacting with children effectively and, at appropriate moments, for example, knowing when to leave children to develop their own fun in the outside play area.

Younger children benefit from the childminder's excellent understanding of the Birth to three matters framework. Children are offered an extensive range of different play experiences and activities on a regular basis which enables them to learn new skills and consolidate existing ones. Children attend a variety of child-centred settings away from the childminding premises. These encourage the development of social skills as they interact with other adults and children.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and content in their play. They play happily together chat with one another and the childminder. Children's self-confidence is evident and is very well promoted as they receive lots of positive praise and encouragement from the childminder resulting in their enjoyment and contentment.

Children's behaviour is excellent. They have clear boundaries that are easily understood and appropriate for the age and stage of the children's development. The childminder uses positive language to actively encourage children's enjoyment and have pride in their achievements.

Children benefit greatly from the excellent partnership with parents and carers. Children's individual needs and requirements are discussed carefully and in detail prior to placement. Successful relationships with parents and carers support the children's development very well. Letters of support and praise from parents and carers are extremely positive about the care children receive.

Children mix socially with others encouraging them to learn respect for differing cultures and abilities. The childminder's good understanding of children's learning and development ensure she meets any child's individual needs.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children access toys, equipment and activities which are well planned and prepared prior to the children arriving enabling children to feel welcome, confident and happy. Children confidently access and are involved in a range of interesting and age appropriate activities both within and away from the childminding setting. Children's other commitments are considered by the childminder who carefully plans activities around these. The childminder has, and continues to undertake appropriate training to enhance her existing meticulous practice and enthusiastic knowledge enabling her to provide high quality childcare.

All documents are in place according to regulation. They are stored securely and made available for inspection. She regularly shares them with parents although the recording of any concerns do not ensure confidentiality. The childminder holds a current first aid qualification helping to ensure that children are cared for safely and that any incidents or accidents are dealt with in an efficient and prompt manner.

Children's individual needs and requirements are well known and discussed with parents and carers prior to their child starting ensuring their individual needs are well addressed and provided for. Children's safety and enjoyment is given a high priority as the childminder obtains parental consent for several aspects of her care. The childminder keeps parents well informed about the care that is provided. The childminder meets the needs for the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to provide resources that reflect positive images of diversity and record times of accidents. There is a very good variety of resources that reflect positive images of diversity such as books, puzzles, dolls and dressing up clothes. The recording of accidents shows the time of any accident. As a result the care and well being of the children has been enhanced.

### **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):

- ensure recording of concerns maintains confidentiality.

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)