

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	506682
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Carole Elizabeth Price

<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 1995. She lives with her husband and two children aged six and 13 years in a five-bedroom, detached house in a cul-de-sac in the village of North Woodchester, near Stroud. The whole of the house is used for childminding with the main care being on the ground floor of the property. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding five children at various times across the week. The childminder attends parent and toddler groups, music groups and toddler yoga sessions and goes for walks within the local community. The family have two cats. The childminder has completed the National Nursery Examination Board and Certificate in Early Years and Education qualifications.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted through the knowledge of the childminder who provides a good range and balance of healthy meals and snacks. The childminder talks with the children about

healthy food as they eat and there are pictures on the wall of healthy options. Children enthusiastically join in with the game of putting pictures of the fruit and vegetables they have eaten on the '5-a-day' board. Children have access to drinks from their own cups at all times and have additional opportunities for drinks of water at snack and meal times, ensuring they have adequate fluids throughout the day. The childminder works closely with the parents to ensure that the children's individual dietary needs are catered for appropriately.

Children are beginning to learn about personal hygiene through the encouragement of the childminder to wipe their hands appropriately. Younger children clean their hands using baby wipes. Older children wash their hands at the sink. Facilities in place at present mean that those who use the sink, dry their hands on the same towel as the childminder and her family which could lead to a spread of any infection.

Outdoor activities are organised to ensure the children have regular fresh air and physical exercise. They take part in riding, pushing and running activities while playing in the garden and during walks in the local community and to the park.

Any accidents and illnesses are dealt with appropriately as the childminder has good knowledge of administering medication and first aid.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for within a safe environment which is warm and welcoming. The childminder has used her knowledge to identify any hazards and has taken appropriate action to ensure these areas are safe. An appropriate emergency evacuation plan has been thought through and discussed appropriately with the children to ensure they can all get out of the home quickly in the event of an emergency. An appropriate fire blanket is available in the kitchen and smoke detectors are fitted and checked.

Toys and resources available to the children are stored appropriately to ensure they are safe for them to use. For example, items with small pieces are kept out of reach of the younger children. Resources are well cared for and easily accessible. They are checked and cleaned regularly to ensure they continue to remain appropriate. Regular visual checks are made indoors, outdoors and when visiting areas such as the local park, to ensure the environment is suitable for children to play safely.

Children are beginning to learn about safety outside of the home, and keeping themselves safe. The childminder talks appropriately with the children about holding hands and road safety. Children learn and practise safe road crossing when out and about and talk about how they have to wait for the green man to appear before they cross the road.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted through the knowledge and understanding of the childminder. She has a good understanding of safeguarding children procedures which are in line with the local procedures and has attended an appropriate training course. She is fully aware of her responsibilities and the procedures to follow should a concern arise.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed within the childminder's home. They play well with their friends and take part in a range of activities such as creative activities, imaginative play, physical play, construction and free play. Resources are accessible to the children who choose and select items for themselves from a wide variety provided by the childminder. The childminder takes time to play and talk with each of the children. They dress up and pretend to go on car journeys in the cardboard box, taking it in turns to use the cut out steering wheel to drive each other. Children's communication and experiences are widened by the interaction from the childminder as they play together and discuss the different items of clothing or the book they are reading together. Activities are loosely planned in advance around the interests of the children and the current topic, ensuring they have an interesting time; for example, children enjoyed sticking hearts to make a card for St Valentine's Day. During the school holidays, the older children are involved in the planning to ensure they have an interesting and enjoyable time.

The children are learning to be social and caring towards each other through encouragement of sharing, showing respect and consideration for others as they play and learn. They happily share the toys and take turns with a popular book or looking in the mirror to admire themselves wearing a dressing-up item.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment where they are respected and valued as individuals and learn to value and respect others. The childminder currently has no children who attend with learning difficulties or disabilities, however she understands that each child is different and goes through different stages in their lives for example, moving home, having a sibling in the family or the death of a much loved pet. Children's care needs are met effectively through the childminder's knowledge and good understanding of the children in her care and their individual needs and routines. She is very aware of the need to work with parents and other professionals to meet individual needs as required. Children have access to resources which reflect diversity and the childminder is aware of the need to provide activities where children can learn about diversity; for example they have made dragons and dragon boats using recycled materials to celebrate Chinese New Year and older children had the opportunity to make and toss pancakes.

Children are well behaved. Positive behaviour is encouraged. Children receive appropriate praise from the childminder for tasks such as helping to tidy up the toys and also for achievements such as making their special cards or eating their snack nicely. They are learning to share and take turns as they play with the car, dressing-up items and are beginning to think about others.

The childminder is very aware of the need to work closely and in partnership with parents. She is aware of the need for good communication and spends time completing a daily diary and talking with parents at the start and the end of the day ensuring they are informed about the children's activities, food intakes, nappy changes and sleeps. Parents have time to study an information pack before completing all the relevant forms and written contracts.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Space is used effectively within the home. Different rooms and areas are available to provide different activities such as quiet play and free play in the play room and messy play in the kitchen.

Children can choose and access resources and activities for themselves, and initiate their own play.

Policies and procedures are shared with the parents through a parent information pack and are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children.

The childminder has attended a variety of training sessions, is keen and enthusiastic and is positive towards increasing her knowledge in line with forthcoming new legislation for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Records and documentation are well maintained, used appropriately and stored securely to ensure confidentiality. Regulatory requirements are met and the welfare of the children is promoted successfully.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection recommendations were made to devise and practise an emergency escape plan, and to ensure strategies used to manage a range of children's behaviour were effective and implemented consistently. A clear evacuation plan is in place and has been discussed with the children appropriately to ensure they have an understanding of why and how they need to evacuate in the case of an emergency. Management of the children's behaviour is appropriate and consistent.

Recommendations were also made to increase the childminder's knowledge of the circumstances to notify the regulator, and request written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. These issues have been addressed appropriately and written permission is in place which will avoid any delay in a child receiving emergency medical treatment.

## **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 the 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):

- further develop procedures which promote positive steps, to prevent the spread of infection when children are drying their hands.

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)