



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	405356
<b>Inspection date</b>	01 July 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Janet Ashcroft

<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 1999. She lives with her 2 children, aged 10 years and 5 years in Walmley, Sutton Coldfield. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and the bathroom upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family has a pet rabbit, which is housed outdoors and to which minded children have supervised access.

The childminder holds a playwork qualification and is a member of the National

Childminding Association. She operates a collection and delivery service to the local school and nursery and regularly visits local pre-school groups.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children participate in a variety of physical activities, which contribute to their good health and provide opportunities to develop and practise physical skills, for example, general garden play and regular visits to the local park and pre-school group. Daily outdoor play is a feature of the provision and the childminder's garden is designed to accommodate the children's needs to explore and play.

Children benefit from the childminder's good hygiene practice and she encourages and supports them in developing self-help skills with regard to personal hygiene. Age appropriate explanations and discussion ensure that the children are learning the importance of regular hygiene routines, such as hand washing.

The childminder does not presently provide meals for the children, however their welfare is safeguarded through her appropriate hygiene procedures when handling the children's packed meals. Nutritious snacks, for example fruit, are provided daily. The children's independence is fostered as they access drinks freely.

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

The provision is good.

Children are able to move safely and independently around the setting, which is clean and well maintained. Children benefit from opportunities to explore other environments and the childminder has all the required procedures and documentation in place.

The childminder has a high level of awareness of all risks to children's safety and has taken extensive precautions to keep the physical environment safe and secure. Children are actively learning to keep themselves safe through participation in safety routines, such as road crossing drills.

Children enjoy free access to an extensive range of toys and equipment; these are in good condition, are age appropriate and help to promote learning in all areas.

Children's protection from abuse and neglect is promoted through the childminder's detailed knowledge of child protection procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children are involved in a broad range of exciting and challenging activities and experiences, which are planned to help them make progress in all areas of development. Spontaneous events and children's individual interests are effectively used by the childminder to extend their learning experience. Children are given frequent opportunities to explore and investigate and are learning to make choices as they access toys and equipment freely and independently.

Children benefit from regular learning and play opportunities outside the home, which further develop their social skills. Their language development is promoted throughout the day as they are given frequent opportunities to discuss, negotiate and respond to questions asked of them by the childminder. Their confidence in their language skills is enhanced by the childminder's positive response to their comments.

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

The provision is good.

Children's self-esteem is promoted as they are praised frequently for effort and achievement. Their sense of security is promoted through consistency of care and positive behaviour management strategies. They enjoy a warm relationship with the childminder and show care and concern for one another.

Children benefit from being cared for as individuals with their particular needs considered and accommodated. They freely access a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world.

Children's sense of security is fostered through a strong partnership with parents, which promotes continuity of care. Information is shared on a daily basis and in a variety of ways.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are able to confidently explore and investigate as a result of the creative use made of the available space. Their sense of security is fostered through effective adult support and a familiar daily routine. The children benefit from the additional training undertaken by the childminder, this has enabled her to develop her practice particularly with regard to learning and play.

The environment is well organised, with cheerful décor and child centred posters creating a warm welcome for all children. Their self-esteem is promoted by attractive displays of their creative work.

The childminder's records and policies are mostly well maintained, however the children's welfare is compromised due to the expiration of the childminder's first aid certificate.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to maintain an accurate daily attendance record and to revise documentation for accident recording to ensure confidentiality. The children's safety is now promoted through the accurate attendance record; this is maintained daily and details the children's arrival and departure times. Children's welfare is now promoted through the confidential recording and storing of the accident records.

### **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 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 that children's health and safety is promoted by maintaining a current first aid certificate.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)