

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	224489
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 October 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Valerie Thomas
<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 was registered in 1984. She lives with her husband in Stoke-on-Trent and works with an assistant on an odd occasion. 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 is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children under eight years and two over eight years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a pet dog and a budgerigar.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted well within the setting as they develop effective personal hygiene routines. They know that they need to wash their hands when they have been on a walk and before they eat, saying that their hands may have germs on them. They have their own individual towels to ensure good hygiene. There is a clear policy in place for excluding sick

and infectious children which parents sign to agree. This helps to limit the spread of infection and helps children to remain healthy.

Children's health and safety is promoted very well. There are clear procedures in place for the recording of accidents and children's medical needs are met through obtaining written consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

Dietary needs are met through working in partnership with parents to ensure children receive a healthy and nutritional diet. They are able to help themselves to snacks from the large bowl of fruit in the kitchen and enjoy eating the apples and oranges. Children bring their own packed lunch and the childminder talks to parents about healthy options to include. Children's understanding of keeping healthy is further encouraged through discussions about brushing teeth and sweets causing tooth decay. This encourages them to develop a positive attitude to healthy eating.

Children have many opportunities to play outside in the fresh air and to develop their physical skills. They excitedly talk about when they took the parachute to the fields moving it around when the helicopter flew over, and photographs show children enjoying wheelbarrow racing. Inside children engage in dancing and exercising, pretending to cycle with their legs in the air. This encourages them to develop their physical skills and a healthy lifestyle.

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

The provision is good.

Areas are maintained well and provide a welcoming environment for children with posters and their art work displayed. There is good space for them to move around with a wide range of good quality toys available. The toys are organised very well in storage units in the conservatory and kitchen. This allows children to make their own choices and promotes their independence as they help to tidy away before they get something else out.

Safety is promoted well within the home. A written risk assessment is in place for the new front porch area completed by one of the parents and a visual risk assessment is completed for the new conservatory. Socket covers are in place and cleaning materials are stored safely. Security is good for indoors and outdoors. However, the outdoor area has work being completed and consequently, children are always supervised when using this area to ensure their safety. Children learn about the importance of keeping safe through clear boundaries set by the childminder. Older ones know that they should not talk to strangers or touch strange dogs and good guidance is given on how to use scissors safely. The fire evacuation procedure is clearly understood and children know that when the whistle is blown twice they must go straight outside and stand by the lamp post. This enables children to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

The childminder has a clear understanding of child protection issues. There is a written child protection policy in place and the childminder demonstrates an effective knowledge of the indicators of abuse and the correct reporting procedures. This helps to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded.

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

The provision is good.

There is a wide range of activities available which contributes to children's development both inside and outside the home. Consequently, children say that they enjoy coming to the

childminder because they can paint and play with the dough. They show a keen interest as they create their pictures with the glue and collage materials. The activity is extended well by the childminder to maintain their interest encouraging children to make a rocket with the recycled materials and paint which they thoroughly enjoy. Language and learning are very well supported through lots of conversation and questioning. They concentrate well as they play a game of 'Tell me' and learn that a piece of furniture beginning with 'd' is a dining table and they confidently call out that a nappy begins with 'n'. Children are encouraged to further develop their understanding of letters as they write letters and read the words in the book. Relationships with each other are very good and children show care as they help younger ones to take part in the word game and alphabet bingo ensuring they have their turn.

The childminder is very alert to children's needs and offers alternative activities when younger ones do not want to join in. Children are independent as they wash their own hands after gluing and pour their own drinks. Praise for their efforts is given consistently by the childminder. As a result children are happy and relaxed in the care of the childminder.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met well and the childminder ensures equal opportunities are promoted. There is a good range of resources to raise children's awareness of diversity. For example, there are books, dressing-up clothes and musical instruments available and photographs are used as discussion points to extend their understanding further. Although there are no children currently attending with learning difficulties and/or disabilities the childminder is aware of the benefits of working with external agencies. She fully understands the importance of ensuring everyone is included and the values of working in partnership with parents to ensure children are well supported.

Children's behaviour is effectively managed. They behave very well together and fully understand that if they display negative behaviour they cannot play with the toys until they are good. Children share the toys well and are happy to take turns as they play the games. They use their manners well as they ask 'Can I have the face paints please?' and always tidy away when they are asked. Consequently, children's social skills are developing.

Positive relationships with parents are encouraged. The full range of policies is shown to parents and these can be taken home to view at their leisure. A complaints policy is available and there is a system available to keep a record of any made. Children's individual needs are fully discussed and recorded at initial visits and discussion at the end of the day keeps parents informed of their child's well-being. This helps to ensure children's needs are met.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder's knowledge of the National Standards is good in most areas and there is a detailed operational plan which includes the wide range of policies and procedures implemented. However, the childminder has failed to notify Ofsted of a change in the rooms used for childminding as children now access the new conservatory. This is a breach in regulations and does not fully promote the welfare of children.

The childminder meets all training requirements. She continues to develop her knowledge through attending additional training such as 'Promoting positive behaviour', 'Child protection',

and 'Business support'. Documentation of children's details and attendance meet all requirements.

Children are happy in the care of the childminder. They confidently make their own decisions from the easily accessible toys and good support from the childminder extends their learning well. The wide range of activities provided ensures children are always interested and enjoy their time in the setting. Overall children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to: develop knowledge of child protection issues; devise and implement a system to record any incident of physical restraint; ensure resources promote anti-discriminatory practice and obtain written parental permission to transport children in a vehicle.

Child protection training has been attended and as a result the childminder's knowledge of all procedures is good. This helps to safeguard children. A system is now in place to record any physical restraint and the childminder is aware of her responsibility to do this. This helps to promote children's well-being. There is a good range of resources to promote positive images of culture, gender and disability and these are supplemented through the use of a toy library. This helps children to develop their understanding of others. Written consent is in place to transport children which ensures parents' wishes are adhered to.

### **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 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 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):

- ensure any changes are notified to Ofsted.

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)