

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	222258
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Denise May Smith

<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 1985. She lives with her husband in the town of Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire. The whole of the childminder's house may be 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 three children under five on a part-time basis, and four children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children and attends the local toddler group.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to understand how to keep themselves safe and healthy as the childminder encourages them to wash their hands at appropriate times, such as before eating. Nappy changing routines support the care of children and toys and resources are kept clean and hygienic, promoting children's welfare. The childminder holds an up-to-date first aid

certificate and records any accidents that may occur appropriately. Prior permission is obtained from parents before the childminder administers any medication to children, however records relating to medication although sufficient, are not detailed enough to totally underpin the care provided.

Children are well nourished because the childminder works with the parents of the children regarding the food provided for them. Parents tend to provide the main meals, with the childminder supplementing the food provided with fruit and vegetables as required. Drinks are consistently available for children so that they do not become dehydrated.

Children have regular access to physical play opportunities because the childminder takes the children to the park and makes use of the local toddler groups. In the summer children play in the garden with the ride-on toys and enjoy going to a local indoor activity centre where they can climb and explore.

Children's individual rest needs are met as they are able to sleep according to their needs.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a welcoming and generally safe indoor and outdoor environment. The available space is used appropriately and the childminder has recently reorganised the play areas to ensure children have sufficient space to play in comfort. The childminder is aware of most possible hazards and reduces risks to children. For example, she ensures that cleaning products and any medicines and/or pills are stored out of children's reach and that any low-level glass is protected with safety film. However, some dangerous substances are stored in the garden and although a low gate divides this area from the main play space, this gate is easily opened which poses a danger to children.

The childminder discusses and practises fire evacuation with the children to help them to learn to keep themselves safe. Children are able to play with toys that are safe and suitable for their age and stage of development. Young children are further protected as the childminder ensures that toys that have small parts are kept away from any young children present.

The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare appropriately. She has an understanding of child protection procedures, has attended training on this subject to develop her knowledge and makes available to parents a written policy. However, this policy is not written in line with the National Standards and therefore is not effective in informing her practice or keeping parents informed about the procedures to be followed.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a variety of activities and access a range of resources which help to promote their development. The childminder successfully supports the children in their learning and play according to their individual needs. Children become independent in making choices, as they select toys, books and games from low-level storage units in the play room.

Children make appropriate progress with the childminder as she talks and plays with them to develop their understanding. She extends their learning based on their interests. For example,

the childminder organised to take a child on a train ride because of an interest in trains and because this would be a new experience for the child.

Children enjoy stories and regularly share a variety of books with the childminder. They develop their creativity as they play with paint and draw with the available resources. They develop their imaginations as they play with small world toys and home play equipment and increase their understanding of size and shapes as they play with jigsaws, bricks and through general play. Children learn to socialise as they meet with other children at toddler groups and the local childminding group.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder knows the children well. She treats them as individuals and with respect, helping them to feel good about themselves. They gain an awareness of diversity through playing with the range of the resources that are provided which reflect positive images of our society. The childminder shows a proactive approach to caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Children are beginning to develop a sense of place and learn about where they live through regular outings around the local environment.

Children behave well. They learn right from wrong, about sharing and taking turns with toys and play equipment. This ensures they play harmoniously together and learn to be kind to each other. They receive regular praise and positive reinforcement from the childminder, who acts as a good role model, as she says 'please' and 'thank-you' to them.

Parents are kept mostly informed about the care the childminder provides; she shares all the necessary records and information with parents. However, she does not have written permission in place for care, such as the use of plasters which does not underpin the care provided.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable, settled and at ease with the childminder. As a result they are confident to help themselves to the toys which are stored and easily accessible in the playroom, helping them to make choices in their play. The childminder is proactive in attending and seeking training to ensure that she keeps up-to-date with current childcare practice.

The children's needs are met through appropriate organisation. They benefit from routines which help them feel secure and relaxed and have opportunities to play indoors, outside and in the local community. They play, eat and rest according to their needs. A wide variety of activities are available providing children with a range of appropriate play opportunities.

Documentation is stored securely and most information shared appropriately with parents.

Overall 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 agreed to develop her knowledge relating to child protection. She has attended training on this subject, but has been asked at this inspection to further develop her policy to underpin her practice. She has kept Ofsted informed of any

changes to adults living on the premises and has minimised risks to children by ensuring socket covers are used, any low-level glazing is now protected and she has installed a smoke detector on the first floor. By taking action relating to these recommendations she has improved the quality of care provided.

### **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 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 that when policies are updated, that all copies are updated to ensure consistency
- ensure that the child protection policy is written and followed, in line with the National Standards
- develop the agreements with parents; this relates to the application of plasters
- ensure medication records contain sufficient detail to enable appropriate care to be given
- minimise risks for children by ensuring dangerous substances in the garden are inaccessible to children.

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)