

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	252487
<b>Inspection date</b>	03 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Alison Putnar

<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?

This childminder registered in 1995. She lives with her husband and their adult child. They live in a house in Bestwood Village close to all local amenities. Minded children have access to the whole of the ground floor, toilet facilities are provided on the first floor. There is also a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years old, one child under eight attends part-time during the week. Children over eight years old also attend.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is generally well supported as high standards of hygiene are implemented to prevent the spread of infections. The home is cleanly maintained and appropriate routines are followed in terms of hand washing before eating, after toileting and during nappy changing routines. The childminder works well with parents to further reduce the potential spread of illness, a sick children policy is shared. Children's dietary needs are catered for as the childminder works closely with parents. She serves food provided by the parents and respects their wishes

when providing healthy snacks. Children are well hydrated as liquid refreshments are offered regularly and include healthy options such as water and milk.

Children are adequately cared for in the event of minor accidents and secure procedures are considered in the event of dealing with more serious accidents. This includes systems for contacting parents and permission for seeking urgent medical attention. A record of any accidents and medication is completed. The current system of recording this information, in children's daily diaries, means that information is shared effectively. However, as these documents are taken home a record is not then maintained as required on the premises. There are good systems in place to enable children to benefit from fresh air and exercise as they walk out regularly with the childminder and go on trips. Children's physical development is supported suitably as they periodically use a range of resources in the garden and visit local parks and soft play areas to develop larger physical skills.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is promoted and maintained in the home. The childminder takes appropriate steps to ensure the home is safe and suitable before children arrive. Appropriate safety equipment, such as, electrical socket covers and cupboard locks further reduce the risk of accidents. Children are supervised well and the childminder is secure in her practice of monitoring sleeping children to ensure their welfare. Children begin to learn to keep themselves safe through discussions with the childminder, for example, they talk about and practise crossing roads safely on walks out.

The home is well maintained and a good selection of domestic furniture is provided for children's comfort. In addition a good range of equipment is used to support the care of younger ones. Low tables, travel cots and pushchairs are available and maintained in good order. Children have comfortable areas to eat, play and sleep according to their needs. Good use of space means that younger children can sleep peacefully while older ones continue to play. There is a suitable range of toys and activities for the children. Toys and resources available are maintained in a safe and clean state of repair. Children's enjoyment is further supported as some toys are stored in accessible boxes enabling children to make choices and freely access those available. The childminder understands her responsibility to take action to report any concerns for children's safety and welfare. However, she lacks secure knowledge of the process and procedure for reporting any such concerns. As a result, Local safeguarding Children board's procedures may not be implemented as required to fully protect children.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children appear happy and settled in the childminder's home. Good relationships are evident. Young ones benefit from the close physical comfort as they climb onto the childminder's knee for a cuddle and to settle to sleep. Children enjoy choosing what to play with and are generally active and interested in the variety of toys and play materials available. The childminder does not always consider what children are learning through play, she less frequently plans activities to help them build on their development. Whilst she provides a suitable range of toys she is not yet fully using systems such as 'Birth to three matters' to guide her in planning activities.

Children explore their creativity as they listen and dance to music. Young ones develop physical skills as they press buttons on brightly coloured toys. Daily routines incorporate use of wider

community resources. Visits to the park, to feed the ducks and going on nature walks offer wider learning and enjoyable experiences to the children. They develop their social skills as they play with other minded children in the childminder's home or when visiting other registered childminders. Sometimes the children visit local toddler groups, here they benefit from accessing a wider variety of activities and experience being part of a larger group in preparation for nursery or school. Older ones use their ideas and problem solve as they build constructions with bricks. After school children's enjoyment is fostered as they are able to choose their activities. Opportunities are provided for them to play actively in the home or garden or relax with books or appropriate television programmes after a busy day.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Good relationships are evident between the children, the childminder and her family members. A warm and friendly atmosphere is apparent. The childminder knows children in her care well and reads the signs and signals, from those not yet speaking, to ensure their needs are met. Children are cared for according to their individual routines. They develop a positive self-esteem as the childminder speaks to them in a kind and encouraging manner. She presents a suitable understanding of appropriate methods to manage and support children's behaviour. Using positive techniques and encouraging words to help them develop social skills of sharing, taking turns and being gentle with those younger than themselves. All children are equally supported to access a suitable range of toys and activities. The childminder communicates well with parents to ensure that those with any additional needs are well supported. Some toys and resources are provided that reflect positive images of the wider society.

Good communication systems are established with parents. The childminder spends time verbally feeding back to parents each day and written daily diaries are completed for parents with younger children. Individual records are well maintained and include all required information to ensure the needs of the children are met. Adequate written agreements about the care arrangements are in place, promoting a professional service. The childminder has begun to develop a folder of written policies and procedures as an additional method of ensuring parents are fully aware of the her practices. Relevant permission forms are completed and parents wishes are respected fostering positive working relationships.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children have good levels of support and supervision to enable them to feel secure in the setting. All are equally encouraged to access the toys and resources on offer. Children are given appropriate levels of attention. Daily routines are organised to offer a balance of play in the home and good use is made of other local facilities to offer children variety in their day. Children are able to eat, play and rest in comfort due to the good organisation of the home. They benefit from having continuity of care as the childminder collates relevant information to meet their needs. Parents' wishes are taken account of, developing good working relationships.

Children's safety and well-being is maintained as records required for the childminding business are adequately maintained overall. However, systems for recording accidents and medication are less effective. The childminder has many years experience of childminding. She has a satisfactory understanding of requirements as a childminder and attends required training such

as first aid. She develops good relationships with the families she works with. Overall, children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to devise a policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious. The childminder has written a policy that she shares with parents enabling them to work together to promote the good health of children. In addition the childminder agreed to extend her knowledge of child protection issues. The childminder has a basic understanding about the potential signs of abuse. She has less knowledge of procedures to be followed in the event of concerns being raised and as such this remains an area for improvement following this inspection.

### **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):

- promote the good health of children further through ensuring that records of medication administered to children and signed records of all accidents are maintained and retained on the premises
- plan and provide a wider range of activities to help younger children's development in line with the aspects and approach described in 'Birth to three matters': a framework to support children in their earliest years
- extend knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and the Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures.

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)