

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY272220 |
| Inspection date | 30 August 2007 |
| Inspector | Linda Christie Ravenall |

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| Type of inspection | Childcare |
| Type of care | 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.

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 2003. She lives with her husband and five children aged 15, 13, 10, seven and two years of age in a detached house in Redditch, Worcestershire. There are shops and schools within easy walking distance. All areas of the ground floor are used for childminding except the conservatory. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have a pet dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight at any one time and is currently minding four children over three on a part-time basis. She also cares for children over eight. The childminder walks to local schools and playgroups to take and collect children. A vehicle is available for trips further a field.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is well promoted as the childminder takes positive steps to promote the children's good health, and encourages them to begin to take responsibility for meeting their own health needs. They learn the importance of washing their hands before meals and handling food, such as planned cookery sessions. Positive steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures taken when children are ill so that health needs are met. For example the exclusion policy includes notification to the environmental health department of certain infectious diseases that childminder's are required to report.

Children are learning about healthy living through a varied range of activities that develop the children's understanding of what foods are good for them, such as daily fresh fruit snacks, topics, food tasting and collages using pictures of healthy foods to prompt discussion. These are also on display in the kitchen to further develop their understanding on a daily basis. With patience and perseverance from the childminder, even the fussiest eaters are being encouraged to try different healthy foods and increase the range of foods necessary for a balanced diet and healthy living.

Children enjoy varied opportunities to experience physical activity and develop their skills. They access a range of activities every day such as pedalling three-wheeler bikes, using the mini slide and climbing frame which enables the children to develop their confidence on a wide range of equipment that provides challenge and helps children to achieve.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a family atmosphere where there is sufficient space for them to sit and play together in comfort. Children receive a warm welcome each day as their art work and photographs are on display and this helps to develop a sense of belonging. Children's safety is satisfactorily promoted because the childminder has taken some steps to identify and minimise potential hazards. A general range of safety precautions are in place. For example toys are stored safely and they are clean and appropriate for the age and stage of the children in her care, any unused electrical sockets have been made safe and external doors are secured. However children's safety is at potential risk because harmful substances are stored accessible to children in the utility room and there are several new hazards within the garden, due to the recent reorganisation of the outdoor space. Children are mainly well supervised in the garden to keep them safe.

Children's safety on outings is suitably protected. The childminder's vehicle is insured, appropriate child seats and restraints are used and children are taught about road safety. The childminder has devised a suitable fire evacuation procedure and this has been shared with the children and therefore they are aware of what they would do in a real emergency. Smoke alarms are fitted and suitably maintained and a fire blanket is available in the kitchen.

Children's welfare, in the event of child protection concerns, is potentially compromised as the childminder lacks up to date knowledge of the Local Safeguarding Children's Boards' guidance and the relevant policies provided for parents do not reflect the introduction of the new document.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are involved in a broad range of planned activities and spontaneous events, which support their development and overall learning because they take part in lots of craft activities, enjoy imaginary play and regularly share books and stories. The childminder plans her day informally around the children's routines and utilises her time well to help support their learning when they are at their most alert. Each morning they focus on activities to develop their colour recognition, early numbers and extend their language skills. They enjoy sitting with the childminder at the kitchen table, learning together using favourite puzzles, card games and books to engage their interest.

Children can access plenty of resources that help extend and support their learning and play experiences. Toys are stored safely where they can be accessed easily and are confident to help themselves and know what is available to them. Children are encouraged to tidy away after use and are learning to treat toys and equipment with respect. They enjoy trips and outings during the school holidays which follow their interests, such as an air show and the zoo and photographs are proudly on display to promote lively discussions about their memories of the day. As result the children have fun, they are stimulated and this helps to promote positive behaviour and individual needs are met.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated equally and discussions with the children and their parents help to identify children's individual needs and interests. Children learn about themselves and each other and the world around them through everyday activities as well as outings. They access a general range of resources and activities that help to promote their knowledge and understanding of diversity. The childminder is warm, caring and sensitive but has little experience of caring for children with additional needs and she lacks confidence with the process to follow. This limits her ability to develop a proactive approach, should she be required to do so, in order to ensure the child's needs are promptly met.

Children are learning to behave appropriately because the childminder uses a range of positive strategies to manage behaviour. For example she uses explanation, discussion and sometimes teaches children about the effect their actions have on others. She encourages children to say sorry if they have hurt or upset others and she understands about the difficulties that toddlers sometimes have with sharing. Praise and support helps them start to develop some self-esteem. Children are encouraged to play together, take turns and share. They receive regular verbal reminders about house rules and these, along with behaviour management, are shared with parents. Children are developing good social skills as the childminder encourages them to develop polite manners at the table. One child asks if they can "please get down from the table" and another asks for "more juice please".

Children's individual needs are satisfactorily met because the childminder works consistently with parents and carers to develop close partnerships so that all children achieve their full potential. Consent for use of photographic equipment is obtained within the home, but not for public use, to respect the children's safety and respect parents' wishes. Parents enjoy looking at the happy collection of photographs which are on display, recording the trips undertaken over the school holidays, such as a day trip to the seaside, a Nature Centre and an aircraft museum. This, along with good verbal exchanges of information with parents each day and an

increasing range of mainly up to date policies, ensure parents are aware of how their children are cared for.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Parents and children benefit from the childminders' experience and the welcoming environment that she offers. The childminder demonstrates a growing commitment to her personal development as Ofsted training requirements are met and a recognised level three childcare qualification is being studied at present. Daily routines reflect the children's needs and parental requirements. Both health and individual dietary needs are well met. Equality of opportunity is relatively well promoted through activities and resources. Procedures for supporting children with additional needs are currently being developed. Children have ample space indoors and outside to access a wide range of developmentally appropriate resources and activities to meet their needs.

Most documentation is appropriately maintained to ensure the safe and effective management of the setting. Confidentiality for children and their parents is respected and personal information is kept secure. Children's safety is positively promoted on trips and outings, however, some areas of the home and garden do not benefit from a full risk assessment and the childminder's knowledge of child protection awareness is not up to date. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to improve access to resources reflecting diversity, update the first aid certificate, obtain permission to seek emergency medical advice, improve fire evacuation procedures and fit a fireguard.

Children benefit from the increased range of resources and planned activities that are now available to enable them to develop a wider awareness of diversity. Written consent to seek emergency advice or treatment is obtained for all children and the first aid certificate has been updated to enable the childminder to act promptly and appropriately in the event of an accident or illness. The childminder has shared the emergency evacuation plan with the children which enables them to understand what to do in a real emergency. A fire guard has been fitted to reduce risks and protect the children from potential hazards.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection 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 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):

- maintain up to date policies and procedures for parents to keep them informed about how their children are cared for, this refers to child protection and complaints procedures
- ensure appropriate steps are taken to positively promote the welfare and development of children who may have additional needs such as keeping some notes of what you observe and where you might seek advice
- develop a range of risk assessments to positively promote safety within the setting: this relates to storage of alcohol and the revised use of outside play areas
- increase knowledge of child protection issues such as those contained within the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance.

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