

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	258038
<b>Inspection date</b>	18 July 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Anne Walker
<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 February 2001. He lives with his wife, who is also a registered childminder, and two children in South Wootton, on the outskirts of the town of King's Lynn, Norfolk. The whole of the ground floor and two bedrooms and the bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding, and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and assists his wife who is currently minding two children who attend on a part-time basis. The childminder drives to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. The family have five guinea pigs as pets.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have their own towels and all the necessary resources for washing hands readily available. They understand the need to wash their hands after using the toilet but occasionally they are not reminded of the importance of this before eating. The childminder has maintained

an appropriate first aid certificate and first aid kits are available in the home and the car. This ensures that any accidents children have can be dealt with effectively to ensure their well-being. Records of any medicines show parental consent and what has been administered, so that parents and the childminder work cooperatively to promote children's health. Parental permission to seek emergency medical consent has not been sought for the children currently cared for. This means that if a medical emergency occurs parental wishes are not clearly stated.

The children have snacks and drinks at regular intervals during the day so that they are not hungry and remain alert and able to play. Some regard is given to healthy eating and children after school are encouraged to eat fruit first before other snacks are offered. Packed lunches prepared by parents are stored in the fridge so that food remains fresh for children at lunch time. Relevant information is recorded when the child starts so that the childminder is aware if children have dietary needs.

The garden has a range of equipment to promote children's physical skills and provide them with opportunities to be in the fresh air. On occasions, children walk to local venues or school although more often the car is used.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a suitably safe and secure environment as potential hazards are minimised. Stair gates prevent access to the kitchen when cooking is taking place and the dining room where computer equipment is stored. Areas of the home are organised for them to play, rest and eat. A child sized table in the lounge is provided for their meals and there is sufficient floor space so that they can spread out their toys and still move safely. They are encouraged to help tidy away before getting more toys out so that they begin to understand how to prevent trips and falls. Play materials are clean and in safe order. A written emergency evacuation procedure is in place in the event of a fire but it does not have regard to the first floor, which is used for minding. There are not clear plans to show what would be done if children were on both levels, or if everyone was upstairs at the time the fire broke out. Children receive appropriate levels of supervision indoors and during outings to ensure their safety and well-being. The cars used to transport children are properly maintained and insured and children are restrained in suitable car seats to keep them safe.

The childminder has a suitable knowledge of how children can be harmed and understands where to report his concerns, having recently undertaken a child protection course. Some child protection information is displayed in the hall. Overall, systems for making parents aware of the child protection responsibilities that the childminder has, do not fully guide parents to understand how to work cooperatively with him. The childminder's awareness of when to record injuries children arrive with is not fully secure. This means that children's welfare could potentially be compromised as full and clear information would not necessarily be recorded.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children have appropriate support and attention as they play. A pre-school child concentrates and shows persistence as he arranges the pieces to make a train track. He happily tries different arrangements and talks with his carer about what he is trying to achieve. The childminder plays alongside him and is encouraging him. Children are comfortable in the environment and know what play materials there are. When they are not immediately available they are happy to ask.

A selection of play materials are out in boxes in the lounge and are generally age appropriate for the children present.

Regard is given to providing children with a balanced day. Most mornings are spent at activities in the local community such as toddler sessions or the local farm park. This enables them to mix and socialise with their peers and provides some opportunities to be outdoors. Afternoons are quieter as the children have free play in the home. The day takes into account young children's individual routines. Craft activities are planned and adapted for the different age groups so that they have appropriate challenges. The childminder ensures that he keeps up to date with the daily activities and works closely with his co-minder so that children have consistent routines on the occasions that he cares for them.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs including dietary or medical issues are recorded prior to the child being cared for. The childminder and his co-minder exchange information regularly so that he is generally sufficiently informed to provide appropriate care for them when he takes over from his co-minder, who is their main carer. There are satisfactory resources and activities that help children understand peoples similarities and differences. The children have frequent outings to local amenities and toddler groups which provides them with opportunities to mix and socialise in the local community.

Satisfactory strategies are in place to include children with disabilities. Appropriate information is exchanged with parents which includes daily written information when babies are looked after.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are looked after in a family orientated environment where they get to know the adults in the household who are both registered as childminders. Regard is given to ensuring children have appropriate safe space to play and rest according to their developmental needs. The childminder has undertaken some training so that he has the required skills, such as first aid.

All required paperwork is in place and used satisfactorily to underpin the day-to-day management of the childminding business. Although the childminder only works occasionally, he keeps up to date with the record systems and knows where his co-minder stores them. He is also co-writing some of the policies so that he remains actively involved in the running of the setting and keeps up to date with requirements. Records are used and adequately stored to ensure confidentiality. Overall, children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to improve the information to parents about the childminding service provided. Some information has been developed to assist parents in understanding how the childminder runs his business and the play opportunities children will have during the day. This information has also been translated into Portuguese to support families in the area who do not speak English as their first language. Some photographs of the children at play and information booklets are displayed in the entrance hall for the parents to see.

## **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):

- further promote children's health and well-being by ensuring that they wash their hands before eating and that parental consent to the seeking of emergency medical treatment is requested
- improve the fire evacuation plan so that it reflects all areas of the home that are used for childminding and develop knowledge of child protection procedures in relation to existing injuries and systems for informing parents of child protection responsibilities.

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)