

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY266741
<b>Inspection date</b>	18 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Sally Ann 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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged four and two in Newhall, Derbyshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently caring for three children on a full- and part-time basis. She is registered to provide over night care for one child.

The family has a dog.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and takes children to local shops, parks and play centres.

The childminder has a BA Honours in Early Childhood Studies.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children demonstrate a good awareness of appropriate hygiene routines and recognise when they need to wash their hands. They understand for example, that they clean their hands before eating. As soon as the childminder informs children it is snack time they make their way to the cloakroom saying 'hands, hands'. They help themselves to the step so that they can reach the basin and attempt to squirt the soap into the palm of their hands. Each child has their personal hand towel to minimise cross-infection. Children are reminded to use tissues to blow their noses and to put their hands across their mouths when coughing or sneezing. There are good procedures in place should a child become unwell whilst at the childminder's house. She ensures that children are comfortable before asking parents to collect their children. Parents are advised to keep their children at home to prevent infections spreading to the other children. A first aid kit is easily accessible and one is also taken on outings. The childminder has current information regarding notifiable and communicable diseases and is aware of the relevant procedures.

Children are provided with a range of healthy snacks and meals, which are all freshly prepared. All processed foods are avoided although children's favourites are included on the menu. For example, instead of buying chicken nuggets, the childminder makes her own chicken goujons with a crispy coating. Children enjoy risottos, omelettes and home-made cottage pie. Children have bread and butter and select their own toppings to make a sandwich. Children sit at the table and have made their own laminated place mats on which to place their food and drink. They regularly participate in cooking activities to develop their awareness of food and discuss the benefits of a healthy diet. They knead dough to make pizzas or chop and prepare fruit for a smoothie or fruit salad. They like to experiment with different tastes such as pineapple, mango, blueberries and kiwi and watch as the fruit whizzes around in the blender. Children enjoy baking cakes, biscuits and shortbread or making jelly for tea.

Children are engaged in physical activities inside and outside. They regularly walk to and from school and visit local parks. They climb and use the various equipment that the play area has on offer which accommodates both older and younger children's needs. Children regularly visit local soft-play centres where they can bounce, climb, jump and crawl in a safe environment. Children enjoy helping the childminder to launch the kite in the air and watch it floating in the air. Older children attempt to do this independently. Children often walk to the local shops or supermarket helping to place items in the trolley. They enjoy dancing and moving to various music.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from space which is well planned and organised to enable them to move about freely and safely. Furniture is arranged to maximise floor space and enable younger children to crawl and toddle around relatively free from obstructions. All resources are stored at the children's level therefore enabling them to select activities independently. The childminder rotates toys and equipment so that children are stimulated and provided with new challenges.

Children learn about good procedures to keep themselves safe such as not talking to strangers. Older children know that if the childminder is late to collect them from school they must go back inside. Children learn about road safety and how to use a pedestrian crossing. They know

that they must wait until vehicles stop before crossing the road. They remain close to the childminder at all times and must not run ahead. Children further develop their understanding of staying safe through regular discussions with the childminder. They understand that they must pick up their toys off the floor or they may hurt themselves and not to place objects in their mouths in case of choking. The childminder supervises children in all areas of their play. However, unopened bottles of wine are accessible to children as they are stored in a low-level wine rack in the kitchen therefore compromising their safety.

Children know the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire to protect them from harm. These are practised regularly, to take account of new starters and children's patterns of attendance. The childminder familiarises children with the sound of the smoke alarms so that they are not frightened of the noise.

Children are well protected and cared for due to the effective procedures that the childminder has in place. She is aware of the signs and definitions of abuse and what to do if she has a concern. She has a good understanding of the implications for her childminding where an allegation of abuse is made against the childminder. This means children are effectively safeguarded.

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

The provision is good.

Children are made welcome and play happily together with a good range of resources. Activities are planned to take account of the age and stage of each child and ensure that they are actively involved in all areas of their play and learning. For example, older children play at the table so that they can construct, draw or play board games whilst younger children play with the childminder on the floor. Some activities such as messy play are planned so that all children can participate. Children often visit the local craft shop to purchase art and craft materials. The childminder is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and plans activities accordingly. She encourages social interaction and develops younger children's understanding of sharing and cooperative play. As a result, they play together well. For example, they sit on the floor and roll a ball to each other, giggling in the process. At times they are engaged in parallel play yet watch and help each other.

Children develop their communication and observational skills. They snuggle in and have regular cuddles with the childminder whilst listening to stories. They point to the pictures as the childminder asks questions to consolidate their understanding. Young children make marks as part of their play such as painting, scribbling on paper or looking at letter shapes. Children go on regular outings to the shop, supermarket where they select ingredients for cooking activities. On their return they weigh and measure the ingredients and have fun mixing them all together. On occasions, children visit a local cafeteria where they have a drink and snack. This helps to develop social skills. The childminder maintains daily diaries for children to record general observations and routines.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed in the setting and have their individual needs met well. Children have looked at Chinese New Year and its significance but other celebrations and festivals are not regularly incorporated into planning, therefore children do not effectively learn about diversity. Although the childminder is not currently caring for children with learning difficulties

and/or disabilities, the childminder ensures that she provides an inclusive service. She is aware that some children may have specific needs and would liaise with parents in ensuring that appropriate action was taken to meet the child's needs. The childminder would seek relevant information about the child's routines and any specialist equipment required. Activities would be adapted to ensure all children could fully participate.

Children play well together and are learning to share and take turns. They respond to regular praise and encouragement from the childminder to promote positive behaviour. The childminder provides a positive role model where raised voices are discouraged. Children very quickly understand the 'house rules' which are continually reinforced. The childminder creates a busy and industrious environment so that children are engrossed in their play and do not become bored or distracted. A written behaviour management policy is shared with parents.

Children are made to feel comfortable and at home in their environment. Parents of younger children are consulted about routines such as feeding and sleeping and the childminder completes a daily diary so that information can be regularly shared. Parents are invited to discuss and share information about their child's well-being and development progress with the childminder. These factors help to develop children's sense of belonging and ensure their individual needs are met. Parents are made aware of the complaints procedure should they be unhappy with any aspect of the childminding service. The childminder is aware of her responsibilities in responding to complaints.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder generally has a satisfactory understanding of the National Standards, although at the time of the inspection, the required adult: child ratios were not maintained. This means the childminder was in breach of her condition of registration. However, children play in a well-organised environment where space is effectively utilised to provide a variety of play opportunities. The childminder plans her time effectively to ensure that children receive continual support and encouragement whilst they play. This means they feel secure and are confident to try new experiences. Children's records and contracts with parents are up to date and the childminder has a range of policies which are effectively implemented. Children's attendance is accurately recorded in the register stating their hours of attendance.

The childminder has a current first aid certificate and this is displayed in a folder of information which is shared with parents. She has not undertaken any training recently but is aware of the move towards 'The Early Years Foundation Stage' and is awaiting training for this.

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 was required to; ensure that trailing electrical wires are inaccessible to children; ensure that children have access to an appropriate range of resources that promote anti-discriminatory practice. All electrical wires are now inaccessible to children. Resources have been purchased to reflect cultural diversity although this is ongoing, and as a result, a further recommendation has been made in light of this inspection.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since 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):

- improve further the safety of children by making alcohol inaccessible
- increase further the range of resources and planned activities to promote cultural diversity and disability
- ensure correct adult: child ratios are met at all times

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)