

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	255120
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 December 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Rebecca Johnson
<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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1997, and is a qualified practitioner. She lives in the Smethwick area of Birmingham. The whole ground floor of her house is 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. There are currently five children on role who attend for a variety of sessions. She walks to the local schools to take and collect children, and takes them on visits to the local library, shops and parks.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of outdoor activities. They walk to school every day and regularly visit local parks and woods. They enjoy equipment such as bats, balls, bikes, swings, space hoppers, climbing frames and slides which contributes to their health and helps them to develop control of their bodies. The needs of the younger children are well met because the childminder provides activities and resources to support their physical and emotional development.

Children's individual care needs are well met. They are well cared for if they have an accident or become ill and there are effective procedures in place to protect them from illness and infection. For example, parents are informed of exclusion periods for sickness and these are strictly adhered to. Documentation such as accident and medication records are in place. However, the accident record is not always completed to ensure that children's welfare is protected. Children are learning about their personal hygiene and how to keep healthy through regular hand washing. For example, children wash their hands before eating and wipe their faces after dinner.

Children benefit from regular drinks and nutritious meals and snacks which include a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables. Information is regularly shared and discussed with parents to ensure that each child's individual dietary needs and personal preferences are respected.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean and safe environment. This is because the childminder is able to identify and minimise most risks to children. However, children are potentially at risk as some low-level glass has not been made safe. Premises are welcoming and child-centred because children's work is displayed and toys are easily accessible. They have space to play freely, to be active, quiet and rest or sleep according to their individual needs. Children's awareness of safety issues is developed through every day activities both within the home and during outings. They are aware of the need for simple rules such as how to cross the road safely.

Children are easily able to access a range of equipment and procedures are in place to regularly check toys and equipment to ensure their safety. All fire equipment such as smoke alarms are in place and checked regularly. Evacuation procedures are discussed with the children to ensure that they are able to safely leave the premises should an emergency arise. The premises are secure and there are effective procedures in place for the safe arrival and collection of children.

Children's welfare is promoted and safeguarded due to the childminders knowledge and understanding of signs and symptoms of abuse. She has a good awareness of Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and fully understands her role in protecting the children in her care.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and interact positively with the childminder seeking her out to join in their games or to share experiences of their play. For example, when playing with the dolls house and on the computer. The childminder stimulates children's interest and learning by asking simple questions to help them think and by helping them to name different objects and colours. They are developing independence by choosing activities they wish to participate in and the childminder takes time to find out each child's interests by talking to parents and through discussion with the children. Children develop self-esteem because the childminder offers praise and encouragement at all times.

Children are building positive relationships because they regularly visit other childminder's and the childminder works with them and encourages them to share toys with each other. Children actively seek out the childminder and their peers to participate in activities with them. Younger children sit on the childminder's lap for a cuddle when they become tired or need reassurance. Children benefit from a wide range of age-appropriate and interesting activities to help them

learn which includes role play, a variety of construction, puzzles, crafts, books and table top games. The childminder's sound knowledge of children's development and individual needs ensures that their enjoyment and learning is fostered and encouraged.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Regular discussions with parents ensure that their needs are recognised and met appropriately. Children with disabilities are well cared for and strategies are in place to work with parents and outside agencies to ensure that children's individual needs are fully met. Children access resources such as dolls and books and talk about festivals celebrated around the world. This enables them to begin to develop their knowledge and understanding of diversity.

Children respond to clear methods of behaviour management such as reinforcing positive behaviour and clear and consistent boundaries. House rules such as 'we eat at table or on a tray' and 'we do not jump on furniture' are in place and parents sign to say they agree and will respect them. This ensures consistency between home and minding environments. Methods of behaviour management are appropriate to individual children and children's age and stage of development.

Children's individual needs are well met. Effective partnerships with parents ensures that children are well settled with a familiar and trusted adult, separate happily from the parent, and are gaining self-assurance and confidence with others. Children are cared for in accordance with their parents wishes and information is shared with parents on a daily basis through verbal discussion. Information such as weekly activities, fire exits, menus and qualifications are displayed for parents.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder demonstrates a good knowledge and understanding of the need to inform Ofsted of any significant changes. She is experienced and attends training to ensure that she is up to date with current changes. The register clearly states the actual times of arrival and departure of the children. Documentation which contributes to the children's health, safety and welfare is in place and regularly reviewed. It is safely stored to maintain confidentiality whilst still being easily accessible in an emergency. Overall, children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to: ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice and make sure that low-level glass panels and the gas meter are safe or inaccessible.

Children now access a range of resources and activities to develop their understanding of diversity. The gas meter and most glass has now been made inaccessible to children. However, some glass is still not safe and this is a recommendation from 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 good. 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 all accidents are recorded
- ensure that all low-level glass is made safe or 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)