

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY288497
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Jasvinder Kaur
<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 2004. She lives in Lichfield, Staffordshire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding, with use of upstairs bathroom and one of the bedrooms. There is a garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five and one child over five, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder also cares for children over eight years of age. She provides service during school holidays as well. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group.

The childminder attends a local carer and toddler group for minded children and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about the importance of personal hygiene through daily routines. They wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Children benefit from healthy and nutritious meals and snacks which cater for their individual needs. The childminder is active in ensuring good hygiene in relation to storing, cooking and serving of food safely. Children are developing an awareness of healthy eating through arranged activities including visiting their local green grocers and purchasing favourite fruits and vegetables. Drinking water is readily accessible to all children throughout the day. Their dietary requirements are discussed with parents, and their wishes are respected.

Children are protected from the spread of infection because there is a procedure in place to exclude children with infectious illnesses. The childminder is aware of the necessity of keeping a record of medication administered to children. However, written parental consent is not requested for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice. The first aid box kept in an accessible place, although it contains some unsuitable items. This means children may not receive appropriate care in an emergency. Accident records are well maintained and shared with parents who counter sign all entries.

Children develop their physical skills through a range of outdoor activities in the garden. They enjoy playing in the local park and walking to local school and shops on a daily basis. This ensures that children get fresh air and keep physically fit. There are suitable arrangements for rest and sleep according to children's individual needs.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a suitable physical environment. They have adequate space in the house to move around safely and have easy access to a range of toys sufficient for their requirements. Appropriate furniture and equipment is available to help children to become independent and take part in group activities. Space is used creatively both in the house and in the garden. There is a variety of toys and equipment available for children which enables them to develop their learning skills. Sufficient organisation of resources provides free choice to encourage children's independence.

Children are generally safe. They are encouraged to learn about possible hazards and to keep themselves safe both indoors and on outings. Safety issues are highlighted in the house rules, and children are warned about any hazards while they are playing in the house and in the garden. The childminder carries out safety checks around the area which minimise the risks to children. They benefit from safety measures through emergency evacuation drills on a regular basis. However, the garden fence is not fully secure. This compromises children's safety.

The children are well protected because the childminder has a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of her role in child protection. She has attended the relevant training and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice if necessary.

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

The provision is good.

Children make good progress through a variety of learning experiences which develop their language, mathematical thinking, imagination and social skills. A good range of books is readily accessible to them. Story reading sessions are arranged on a daily basis. They select their favourite books spontaneously and relate the pictures to their real experiences. Children develop their self-esteem by trying new activities and facing challenges in a safe environment. They use their imagination in role play and create their own games with the available equipment. Their mathematical skills are supported through a variety of resources, well planned activities, play opportunities and encouragement from the childminder. Children show developing understanding of the numbers, shapes and colours. While playing with toys they use language to make comparisons such as 'big' and 'small'.

Children's development is well promoted as the childminder offers them a wide range of activities and play opportunities. The children are confident in the setting and have a positive and affectionate relationship with the childminder. They are familiar with surroundings which create a family-oriented environment and help them to feel at home. They are confident and happily introduce themselves to visitors and engage them in conversation talking about their favourite activities. Younger children develop their social skills and enjoy being with other children at the toddler group. Good opportunities are provided to develop their creative talents including making birthday cards for their family and friends. This helps children to make good progress in all areas of learning.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children appear to be settled, as the childminder is well aware of their preferences and individual needs. All children learn social skills and enjoy being with adults and peers. They develop their knowledge and understanding of the wider world through appropriate resources that promote equality of opportunity. Children are involved in decision making when selecting play and taking part in little household activities such as tidying up toys. Although there are no children currently attending the setting who have special needs, the childminder is able to provide care which would include them in the life of the setting through discussing children's needs with parents and relevant organisations.

The children are happy and well mannered as the childminder uses a positive and consistent approach to managing behaviour which takes into account children's levels of understanding and maturity. They are encouraged to share with and respect others by her positive role model and example. Behaviour management is discussed with parents through verbal communication. However, the childminder has not obtained the required written parental consents to promote children's welfare. She does, however, aim to ensure parents are verbally informed about and involved in their child's experiences and care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and at ease in an organised and safe environment. They benefit from welcoming premises where they feel secure and their individual needs are taken into account. Required adult-child ratios are maintained at all times to meet children's needs effectively. The childminder regularly attends courses to update her knowledge of childcare issues. She holds

a first aid certificate which is regularly updated. She has suitable arrangements to protect children and has undertaken relevant vetting procedures. This ensures that children receive appropriate care.

Most of the childminder's documents are maintained satisfactorily and stored appropriately to ensure confidentiality. They are readily available for inspection and shared with parents to keep them informed of their child's care and routines. Additional documentation is made available to parents relating to the childminder's qualifications, policies and information about the service provided.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

At the previous inspection, the childminder agreed to ensure a first aid box is in place and the contents replaced as necessary; provide smoke alarms on every level of the house and maintain in working order and extend the range of toys and resources that reflect positive images with regard to disability, gender and culture.

Two of the above recommendations have been successfully met. The childminder has now provided a good range of toys and books that promote equality of opportunity. Smoke alarms have now been fitted on each level of the premises and the childminder checks them regularly. She has provided a first aid box but it contains some unsuitable items. This means children's needs are not met effectively regarding this issue. This has been highlighted in the report and as a recommendation.

### **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):

- ensure the first aid box contains only items that are permitted to use for minded children
- take reasonable steps to minimise hazards to children, with particular reference to the security in the back garden

- obtain the required written parental consents including for seeking any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment, using any creams, taking children on outings and using transport for them.

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)