

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY273663
<b>Inspection date</b>	29 October 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Sally Ann Hubbard

<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 2003. She lives with her husband in Mildenhall High Town in Suffolk. The whole of the ground floor and the toilet 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding nine children all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools and playgroups to take and collect children. She attends several local groups, such as parent and toddler, childminding and a music group. She also takes children to the local library, park and woods and she has one cat as a pet.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are kept healthy and safe because the childminder has thorough hygiene routines and keeps her house clean. For example, children are encouraged to take off their shoes and put slippers on at the door. Children learn about good personal hygiene as they clean their hands

with wipes before eating their snack. They understand why this is important because the childminder talks to them about germs being on their hands and going into their tummies and making them poorly. Children use the toilet independently, however, as they have to come downstairs and use wipes to clean their hands after toileting they are potentially at risk from germs. Children use individual paper towels to dry their hands ensuring there is no risk of cross contamination.

Children's medical needs are suitably met as childminder finds out good information about them and their needs. She is trained to administer first aid and has permission to seek emergency medical advice enabling her to respond appropriately to any accidents involving children. Clear records are in place regarding accidents and medication and parents sign to acknowledge they have been informed. Children are well protected from illness as the childminder does not care for them if they are sick.

Children enjoy healthy snacks and meals, the childminder provides them with a choice of fruit for their morning snack; children say they enjoy apple and strawberries. Children are encouraged to be aware of their own needs because if they are thirsty they can help themselves to a drink. Details about children's individual dietary needs are recorded and fully discussed with parents. This enables the childminder to meet children's needs and respect parent's wishes. Children have very good opportunities to be active as they enjoy going for regular walks to the nearby park and woods so they can benefit from physical exercise. Children enjoy additional outdoor activities in the enclosed garden area.

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

The provision is good.

Children and their parents are made to feel welcome and at home in the childminder's house. It is extremely child friendly and inviting, with lots of examples of children's work displayed on the windows in the play room and around the house. The childminder is well organised and activities are well prepared for the children before they arrive. Children freely choose what they want to play with as toys and resources are presented at their level or clearly visible. They have sufficient space to play with the toys and activities. Children enjoy a good range of resources and furniture that is suitable for a variety of ages. The childminder ensures her equipment and toys are safe by checking that they conform to relevant safety standards. Children have appropriate places to sleep such as travel cots with separate bedding, or the chair and settee in the living room can be used if they just need to rest.

Children are kept safe by the childminder's good awareness of safety and security issues and her ability to minimise hazards. For example, safety measures are in place around her home, the garden is fully enclosed and made safe and the front door is secured while she is looking after children. She supervises them well at all times as stated in her safety policy. Children learn how to keep themselves safe, for example, when they practise the emergency evacuation procedure. Children are further protected by the childminder as she has good knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. She regularly updates her training to ensure she is able to protect the children in her care. Her child protection statement is clear and she makes sure parents are aware of her duty to report any concerns. She has the relevant information and contact number for social services readily available enabling her to act quickly and appropriately if she has any concerns about a child.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely well settled and very happy in the childminders care. The childminder is very caring and sensitive to every child's needs and helps them all to settle appropriately. She is very flexible and supportive of parents too. Children are exceptionally confident and well occupied. They have lots of interesting and stimulating activities to take part in and can choose what they want to do from the very good range available. Children are encouraged to be independent as they choose from a wide range of resources. They are helped to learn because the childminder gives them appropriate support as they play, for example, the childminder counts with the children she asks 'how many have you got?' and 'what colour are they?' Children have very good communication skills and communicate well with the childminder and each other. The childminder is very gentle and caring; she listens to children and talks to them as they are involved in activities. Children enjoy snuggling in next to her on the settee to listen to a story.

The childminder carefully plans what she is going to do with the children, however, she lets the children decide what they want to do and her plans are therefore flexible to accommodate their wishes. She is attentive to their needs and gives them all good attention, as a result, they have very good relationships with her. Children are made to feel good as they are given enthusiastic praise for their achievements, for example, she tells them 'that's so pretty' and 'wow that's lovely'. She teaches them to be polite and considerate to others needs, for example, when children say 'thank you' she replies 'you are welcome sweetheart'. The childminder has good knowledge of 'Birth to Three Matters'. She uses this as a resource for ideas of things to do with the children and to refresh her knowledge from time to time.

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

The provision is good.

Children learn about diversity through a range of activities. They have good resources and all take part in any of the activities. Children use a wide selection of different musical instruments from around the world, for example, drums, bean pod shakers and rain sticks. Children enjoy getting involved in the local community, for example, they help to decorate a tree for the festival of light at the local church, they help with harvest festival and Santa's grotto at the home for the elderly. The childminder gets to know the children and their families well and asks for good information so she can meet their needs effectively. Children with special needs would be cared for appropriately and included in the activities. The childminder would fully discuss any issues and care needs with parents and work closely with them to meet children's needs.

Children's behaviour is good because they have sufficient stimulating activities and are well occupied. They are well managed by the childminder. She gives the children lots of praise and encouragement so they are beginning to learn what is acceptable, for example, she tells children 'well done' and 'that is wonderful'. Children are given explanations to help them understand why their behaviour is not appropriate, for example, the childminder uses children's play to reinforce positive behaviour. Children are given a good role model because the childminder is positive and speaks quietly and calmly to them.

The childminder has very good relationships with parents. She works closely with them to discuss and help them solve any problems. She is willing to be flexible and helps them wherever she can. Parents are aware of how they can make any concerns known. The childminder has an

appropriate system for recording complaints in place, although, none have been received. Parents are very complimentary and say the childminder is 'brilliant' and 'fantastic'.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder ensures that children are well protected as she supervises them herself to protect them from anyone who has not been vetted. Children benefit greatly because the childminder enjoys being with the children. She is sensitive and caring and is committed to providing good quality care. She keeps her knowledge and skills up to date by attending training courses and workshops. She has very good knowledge and understanding of the standards and how she can meet them. Her policies are clear and support her childminding business.

Children feel very comfortable and at home in the friendly homely environment. Space and resources are effectively organised, for example, toys are readily accessible. The records that contribute to children's health and well being are readily available. Information is displayed for parents such as her registration certificate and public liability insurance. Overall children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to make sure that front door is secure so that children cannot leave unsupervised. The childminder ensures children are safe and cannot leave the premises unaccompanied. The front door is locked while children attend and the key is hung nearby in case it is needed in an emergency.

### **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 children have access to appropriate hand washing facilities after toileting to ensure good hygiene is maintained.

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)