



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	126640
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 January 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Mary Van De Peer

<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 1995. She lives with her husband and four children, aged between 5 and 14 years. The whole ground floor of the childminder's 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding four children. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a pet hamster.

The childminder can support children with special educational needs.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm and child-friendly environment, where they are learning the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Washing their hands before eating or handling food and after using the toilet reduces the risk of cross contamination. Children are also encouraged to take themselves to the toilet. They are becoming independent in self care. Children are kept safe from infection and disease. The childminder operates a sick child policy and children do not attend if they have sickness, diarrhoea or a childhood illness, such as chickenpox. Medication is stored appropriately and the childminder has adequate accident and medication records.

The children are offered a variety of healthy snacks. The childminder works closely with parents to provide good quality fresh food, snacks and drinks. The parents of the children attending provide meals and baby milk. Children enjoy regular physical activities that help keep them in good health, including daily walks to and from the school. Babies receive warmth and affection. This supports their emotional well-being and gives them the confidence to explore new experiences.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children can move around freely and safely between the lounge, dining and kitchen areas. Toys are mainly stored in the dining area. The toilet is downstairs and easily accessible. The garden is kept hazard free and can be used by the children, mainly in the dryer months. There are appropriate toys and activities for the age range of the children attending. These are regularly checked for cleanliness and breakages. The childminder has identified the need for a travel cot which can be used for young babies. Older children can use upstairs for play and rest as needed. Very young children and babies can crawl and learn to walk in a child friendly environment.

Medication is stored appropriately, out of children's reach. If the children require any medication, this is recorded and the information shared with parents. The childminder has the benefit of being able to enlist the help of another registered childminder if she needs to in an emergency. The children can benefit from this added protection. The childminder has a very basic understanding of current child protection procedures. Gaining more knowledge in this area would help to further improve children's welfare. Evacuation procedures and fire safety equipment are in place. However, the childminder has not yet practised them to ensure she can keep the babies and young children safe in an emergency.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children enjoy the childminder's company. They smile, laugh and interact well with her. They receive lots of hugs and cuddles. They interact well with each other. Children have a loving relationship with the childminder. There are lots of appropriate toys for the children to play with which cover appropriate areas of development, such as construction activities, mark-making, puzzles, and games. Older children can also practise their technology skills on the home computer. The younger babies and toddlers are able to crawl around freely and play with toys which are readily available on the floor around the room.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are encouraged to join in with all activities regardless of gender or ability, such as board and team games. However, the childminder acknowledges that she has few positive images of race, culture, disability or gender among the toys and books, and agreed to carry out a review to see what else she can include. Children are advised of the house rules. There are behaviour management strategies in place to deal with unwanted behaviour and the childminder discusses her procedures with parents. Children learn about acceptable behaviour both on and off the premises. Although the childminder does not have her childminding procedures in writing, she has developed a good working relationship with parents and they discuss what the children have done at the end of each day. Children benefit from continuity of care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has been caring for children for many years. She holds a current paediatric first aid certificate. All adults in the household have been appropriately vetted. The childminder has acceptable levels of paperwork completed on each child. An attendance register is kept. However, some important details are not always recorded, for example, visitors. All relevant paperwork and documentation is shared with parents. The childminder acknowledges that she could provide more written information about her service for parents. Paperwork is confidential and stored appropriately. The childminder's registration certificate is displayed. All children receive appropriate support from a childminder who enjoys their company and knows them well, helping them feel secure. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

The provider has followed the previous recommendation to improve the provision and now has new double-glazed windows which are lockable. This has improved the safety of the children she cares for.

The provider was given a previous recommendation to provide more resources reflecting diversities. Improvements in this area are limited and therefore remains as

a recommendation in this report.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- continue to review provision of multi-cultural resources
- increase knowledge on current child protection procedures
- ensure visitors are recorded appropriately
- ensure all paperwork contains the required information

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)