

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	210261
<b>Inspection date</b>	19 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Jennie Lenton
<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 1981. She lives in Werrington, Staffordshire. The whole of the ground floor and first floor bathroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years of age. She currently has four children on roll. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are warmly welcomed. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools and pre-schools. She regularly visits local toddler groups, parks and shops in the vicinity.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from cross infection as the childminder has effective procedures and policies in place. Good standards of hygiene and cleanliness are maintained throughout the home. Therefore, children access toys and equipment that are clean and in a good state of repair. There is a clear exclusion policy for sick children and any child who becomes ill at the setting is appropriately cared for while they await collection. This prevents the spread of

infection. Children also learn how to promote their own well-being. They follow sensible routines such as washing their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating. As a result, they are developing an appreciation for the need for good personal hygiene.

The childminder's knowledge and good practice means that children are promptly cared for should they have an accident. The childminder accurately records any incident and shares this information with parents so that children receive appropriate care. The childminder also records details of any medication that is administered. Parents sign to acknowledge the dosages given. However, the childminder does not obtain their written permission prior to administration. This heightens the potential for children to be incorrectly medicated.

Dietary requirements are met as the childminder works effectively with parents to meet each child's individual needs. For example, she ensures that she is informed about any allergies or special requirements. Children are well nourished as they are provided with healthy snacks such as fruit and crumpets. Drinks are readily available throughout the day. This ensures children remain hydrated. The childminder prepares all meals at the home and children enjoy choosing what to have as they are included in decision making. Children choose from a range of nutritious options, such as cheese or ham sandwiches, pasta dishes or jacket potatoes with various fillings. A healthy lifestyle is further promoted as there are good opportunities to participate in challenging active play. The childminder promotes physical exercise through access to the garden, visits to local parks and indoor play centres. This successfully encourages children's physical development.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a warm and relaxed home where children feel safe and secure. All exterior doors are suitably locked to prevent children leaving unaccompanied or uninvited visitors from entering. Good use is made of space to ensure that children are able to play and rest comfortably. There is a wide array of appropriate toys and suitable resources to enhance their welfare and enjoyment. Children receive a high level of supervision as the childminder spends most time directly alongside them. This enhances their play and learning as well as reducing the potential for any accidental harm.

The good use of specialist equipment also ensures children are protected. For example there is a full fireguard in place to prevent injury and a stairgate to restrict access to the first floor. Outside, children enjoy playing in a fully enclosed garden. Most garden hazards are effectively minimised. However, some ivy remains accessible to children; this poses a risk.

Safety is effectively promoted on outings. The childminder ensures that children walk together sensibly and talks to them about road safety and staying within sight. Therefore, children are beginning to develop an appreciation for how to keep themselves safe. Their understanding of safety is further developed as the childminder practises her fire drill with the children on a monthly basis. Therefore, they learn in a calm setting about how to keep safe in an emergency situation. This helps them to respond to instruction promptly should it be necessary.

The childminder also demonstrates a good understanding of child protection and is clear about her responsibilities. She is aware of how to contact the relevant authorities and has the up to date contact details available to deal efficiently with any concerns. This helps to safeguard children from future harm.

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

The provision is good.

Children are content and happy. The childminder makes all children feel welcome as she displays a genuine warmth towards them and commitment to their needs. Children quickly settle to play. They chat openly about their home life or past events as the childminder listens to them attentively. This helps them to feel valued. As a result of the positive attention they receive, children are relaxed and at ease. They snuggle up with the childminder when they want a cuddle and are confident asking for what they need such as a drink or a snack. Consequently, children have good levels of self-esteem as they develop a positive sense of belonging.

There is a wide variety of play resources. Children's preferences are respected and they access some resources independently. Young children enjoy playing imaginatively as they are free to express themselves. For instance, they play contentedly with toy farm animals, acting out the sounds they make and putting them into their stalls in the farmyard. The childminder encourages children to play together and promotes games that enable them to develop interpersonal skills. For instance, children attending after school are encouraged to leave games consoles at home and to play games such as 'Uno' where they take turns and interact with each other. As a result, social skills are good.

Children also have opportunities to engage in a range of other activities such as baking or crafts. They have fun as they make cakes and flapjacks, or design pictures or models to their own satisfaction. Dressing up, dolls, jigsaws and a selection of books are also available. The childminder also provides some outings. Children enjoy using challenging play equipment in parks or looking at wild animals and plants on nature walks. As a result of this variety, children are always actively engaged and enjoy their time with the childminder.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder treats all children with equal concern and encourages them to show each other the same respect. She ensures that they share resources and asks them to be considerate towards others. For example, she reminds them to think about how they would feel if they were left out or talked about. As a result of her approach, children are learning to value individuality and appreciate the impact their actions have on others. Children are also encouraged to value diversity in the wider community as the childminder promotes positive images of different backgrounds and traditions.

Children behave well as the childminder provides a supportive environment for them to learn right and wrong. She uses encouragement and praise to help children develop good manners and play harmoniously. Her management of unwanted behaviour includes a range of safe techniques which are adapted to meet the age and maturity of the child. This ensures that children learn how to behave in a positive way that protects their self-esteem.

Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are welcomed. The childminder is clear about the need to work in partnership with parents to address concerns and help children progress towards their goals. All children benefit from the regular flow of information between the childminder and parents as their welfare and safety is regularly discussed. The childminder ensures she has all relevant parental consents and shares information with the parents about the child's day. Parents also have opportunity to discuss any changes or concerns. For example,

they inform the childminder if their child is to be collected by another relative or friend. This ensures that children are appropriately safeguarded as they enter into another adults care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards. She collates additional information relating to children's needs. Children benefit from this as they receive quality care. The childminder also attends additional training courses which enhance her practice. The effective organisation of time and space means that children are well cared for at the childminder's home. They enjoy engaging in activities of their choice and benefit from the constant supervision which safeguards them from harm. In the event of an emergency, children continue to receive care from an appropriately vetted individual. The childminder has contingency plans for another childminder to provide temporary care should an unforeseen event occur. This ensures children remain safe and well cared for at all times.

The childminder's daily register indicates that ratios are consistently maintained. This ensures that children receive appropriate levels of supervision. The registers do not clearly show times of arrival and departure, however. Consequently, children's movements between care provisions such as school and home are not fully recorded.

Comprehensive policies and procedures generally work well in practice to protect children from harm. All documentation is of a good standard and all records are available for inspection. Records are appropriately signed by parents and stored confidentially, which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being. Overall, children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was required to ensure parents understand the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint; increase knowledge of exclusion periods for illness and increase resources that reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability.

The childminder has put in place a complaints policy which is made available to parents. This details how to make a complaint and provides contact details for Ofsted. The childminder also encourages parents to express their views about her provision through letters and face to face contact. Consequently, parents are well informed about how to complain and children's care is appropriately discussed. The childminder has also collated details about exclusion periods for infectious diseases and has recorded this information in her file. This helps to maintain the health of all children. A number of resources have also been gathered to display positive images of different backgrounds and abilities. The childminder now uses books, television and other activities to encourage children to recognise and value diversity.

## **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):

- obtain written permission prior to the administration of medication
- ensure that hazardous plants are removed or made inaccessible to children
- improve the level of detail recorded in the register to show children's actual times of arrival and departure.

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)