

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	210374
<b>Inspection date</b>	23 October 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Julie Mary Preston

<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 was registered in 1992. She lives with her husband and grown up daughter in Stafford, Staffordshire. The whole of the ground floor 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 and is currently minding 10 children on a full and part-time basis including before and after school care. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She visits local parent/toddler groups, the local childminder group and a singing group. The family have a dog, a budgie and a guinea pig.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and is part of a childminder network.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder promotes good hygiene by implementing a range of policies and procedures that positively endorse this. For example, implementing suitable measures when children are sick, providing individual flannels and towels for children and ensuring her home and resources are clean and well maintained. Suitable procedures are identified to allow children to have contact with family pets whilst at the setting. For example, the dog is up-to-date with worming and vaccination and supervision is maintained to ensure children's safety.

Children are encouraged to have a healthy diet with the childminder providing them with a range of healthy options within the meals, snacks and drinks that she provides. For example, children have free access to drinks to keep them hydrated, they have a range of fresh vegetables served as part of their evening meal and have regular opportunities to have fruit for snacks and as pudding. This ensures children are not hungry or thirsty. The childminder ensures that meals and snacks are appropriately cooked, prepared and served to children by adhering to relevant guidelines and has attended a food hygiene course to ensure her knowledge of procedures is accurate.

The childminder provides a written policy that she adheres to for dealing with any accidents or emergencies. Appropriate records are in place and accurately maintained for the administration of medication, recording accidents, existing injuries and to give permission to seek any necessary emergency treatment should the need arise. The childminder has attended a first aid course and maintains a suitable first aid kit to ensure she is adequately prepared should any children become ill, have an accident or an emergency situation arise. Children have regular opportunities to be active, for example, they enjoy taking the dog for a walk, walking to and from school, visiting the local park and using the rear garden for outdoor play. Opportunities for rest and sleep are provided according to individual children's needs. For example, children rest or sleep on the settee with individual bed linen, in a pushchair or the travel cot when available.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder's home offers a welcoming, mostly safe, secure and child friendly environment with adequate space available to allow children to move around accessing the wide range of toys and equipment available to them. For example, the childminder has put in place appropriate safety equipment that she identified by undertaking a written risk assessment of her property, she provides appropriate fire safety equipment and undertakes regular evacuation drills. However, children's safety is compromised as they have the potential opportunity of entering the garage area unsupervised. Children learn to keep themselves safe as the childminder discusses road safety when out, not to talk to strangers and how to keep themselves safe when using local play grounds. Suitable facilities are provided within the home that is maintained to an adequate temperature for children to rest, toilet themselves, and access outdoor play space. Provision for the hygienic storage, preparation, cooking and serving of food is provided within the kitchen.

Children have access to a wide range of furniture, equipment and toys that are well maintained, conform to safety standards and promote individual development of children. The childminder

takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and when on outings, ensuring appropriate precautions are taken to prevent accidents. For example, she discusses with children about road safety and how to safely walk to and from school, she maintains security of the premises, has fire evacuation procedures in place and nominated persons identified for collection of children. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection and has an awareness of what she would do if she had any concerns about a child in her care.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children have their individual needs met exceptionally by the childminder who actively promotes their welfare. She provides a wide range of activities, resources and play opportunities to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual abilities. All children spend their time purposefully within the range of child and adult-led activities available. Children are very happy, settled and show great enjoyment during their time in the childminder's care. For example, children enjoy participating in role play with the dolls, feeding them, cuddling them and putting them to sleep in their prams. They interact well with the childminder and good relationships are evident. Children are confident, independent and their self-esteem is well developed. For example, by the childminder supporting younger children to enable them to participate in activities alongside older children present. The childminder actively listens to children expanding on their individual interests adeptly in numerous ways through discussion and questioning. Children are interested and their natural curiosity as learners is developed and extended by the childminder providing them with excellent opportunities to develop skills in language, maths, imagination and social skills. For example, within role play children pretended to make chocolate cakes and cups of tea for the childminder and the myself with particular attention to detail provided. The childminder is aware of each child's individual capabilities and adapts and extends activities effectively to provide children with challenge and to promote development. The childminder has an in-depth awareness of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and competently implements this within her practice. For example, by planning and providing activities that reflect the various aspects of the framework and undertaking individual assessments of each child that she shares with parents.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of equal opportunities and all children are respected and valued as individuals. She has a range of resources and undertakes activities to expand their knowledge and understanding of equality, diversity and the wider world. For example, children enjoy finding out about other countries and celebrating festivals for different cultures. Children develop confidence and self-esteem as the childminder lets them make choices and offers them praise, encouragement and reward for their achievements. For example, she provides children with stickers and certificates as rewards. Currently no children attend with any learning difficulties and/or disabilities. However, the childminder would provide appropriate care in close liaison with parents and other agencies when required to ensure the needs of the child were met.

Children enjoy positive relationships with the childminder and each other. They behave well and respond well to the childminder's management of their behaviour. The childminder works in partnership with parents to address any behaviour issues implementing her written house rules and behaviour management policy. The childminder works well in partnership with parents,

sharing information daily to enable her to meet the needs of children who attend both as individuals and as part of the group. Parents are provided with information within the childminders policy file and welcome pack to make them aware of her policies and procedures, discussing individual children's care when they initially join the setting and on a daily basis. Written records and settling in sessions are then identified to gradually introduce the child to the new setting. This aims to provide a smooth transition from the home to childminder arrangement.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder exceeds relevant training requirements, she has attended numerous training courses and has many years childminding experience. Both the childminder and her household remain suitable to provide childcare. Children are very happy and comfortable, making themselves at ease within the childminder's home. The childminder meets required adult to child ratios and provides adequate space and resources that are well-organised both inside and outside the home to enable children to be confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. A range of written and verbal policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children who attend. Information is shared with parents daily to keep them well informed about their child's individual activities, achievements and well being. For example, daily verbal discussions are undertaken, written diaries provided for babies and a monthly newsletter sent out. All required documentation is in place and accurately maintained. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to develop the range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. In order to address this she now provides more activities and resources provided that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection 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 keys are inaccessible to the internal garage door at all times to prevent children accessing this area unsupervised.

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)