

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	222776
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Veronica Sharpe
<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 1997. She lives with her husband and two children aged 17 and 11 years. The childminder works in partnership with another registered childminder. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for a total of 14 children who mainly attend on a part-time basis.

The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family has a cat.

The childminder has a Level 3 childcare qualification.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn good hygiene practice as they wash their hands before meals or after using the toilet. They use paper towels to dry their hands to avoid cross-infections. Accidents or incidents are carefully recorded and shared with parents, which contributes to children's overall health

and well-being. The childminder has built good links with the nearby pre-schools and primary school so she is always informed if children have an accident or are unwell when in their care. A well-stocked first aid kit ensures children receive appropriate treatment.

Children enjoy lots of fresh air and exercise as they walk to and from school, visit the park or walk into town. A secure back garden with fixed climbing equipment is used by the children on a daily basis to promote their physical health.

Children eat nutritious and healthy snacks, such as fresh fruit, crackers and breads. They develop good eating habits as they sit together at the kitchen table to eat. Lunches are normally provided by parents and carers, therefore these take into account children's likes and dislikes. Children have easy access to water so they satisfy their own thirst.

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

The provision is good.

Children move around the home safely and freely because the childminder has organised her home well in order to create a child-friendly environment. Suitable safety precautions, such as stairgates and socket covers help keep children safe, however they can easily access the lock on the inside of the bathroom door, which affects their safety. Children have access to a wide range of safe and suitable play materials that are appropriate for their age and stage of development. Accessible storage means children help themselves and therefore follow their own interests. Toys, books and games are changed frequently to make sure interest is maintained.

The childminder keeps children safe on outings through discussion and supervision. Older children learn basic rules, such as how far they can walk on ahead, whilst younger children are safeguarded with the use of reins, or ride in the buggy. In the home children regularly practise the emergency escape plan so they know how to respond in the event of a fire.

Children are protected from harm because the childminder understands the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures, she knows who to contact and has attended training courses for child protection that help her identify potential concerns.

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

The provision is good.

Children are confident, sociable and settled due to the positive relationships established with the childminder. They have good opportunities to be independent and make their own decisions about what they want to do. Resources are well organised so children have a varied range to choose from, this means they are interested and motivated and approach the activities with enjoyment and enthusiasm.

Children enjoy frequent outings so they socialise with their peers and develop relationships in their own community. They visit the local activity groups, join with others for picnics and attend the local sports centre. Children can be very creative, they use play dough and paint to express their imaginations and build models from 'junk'.

The childminder and her childminding partner use the 'Birth to three matters' framework and the Guidance for the foundation stage to plan the children's daily routines; this ensures children benefit from a wide variety of activities that contribute to their development. The childminder

knows the children well and this enables her to offer activities that build on what children enjoy. Written records of children's progress are shared with parents and carers and include a good range of informative photographs that show how the children learn whilst having fun.

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

The provision is good.

Children learn about the wider world through everyday activities such as arts and crafts. They talk about each other's homes, holidays and families and learn about events that are important to them, such as American Independence Day, Christmas or Mother's Day. A range of resources helps children develop their understanding of other countries and cultures, for instance, play food, dressing-up clothes and small world toys. Children learn to share their toys and games and develop good manners, they clearly enjoy each other's company and show good relationships as they play.

The childminder works closely with parents and carers to ensure children's individual needs are met. Verbal information is shared daily and written records are kept of activities so parents have a good understanding of their children's progress and well-being. Solid, long-term partnerships between parents and the childminder means there is mutual trust and respect. This helps children to be settled and secure.

Children's ideas and opinions are actively sought so they feel a sense of belonging. Older children, for example, compile a chart that shows their favourite food for tea, or identify which board games they want to play. Both childminders work together to offer appropriate support for children who have learning difficulties or disabilities, such as enabling each other to have time for one-to-one or closely supervising children who have food allergies at meal times.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare is promoted well as the childminder has all the necessary documentation for the safe and effective management of the provision. Records are kept up-to-date so they reflect children's changing needs. Written policies and procedures underpin the good practice and these are shared with parents to ensure they have a full understanding of routines and the expectations of care.

The childminder and her co-minder have a positive attitude to continuous professional development. Regular attendance at workshops and training days means the childminder increases her knowledge and understanding of good quality child care. Essential courses, such as first aid or child protection help keep children safe and well. In addition children's welfare is further enhanced as the childminder has completed her Level 3 childcare qualification, showing the extent of her understanding of how children develop and learn.

The setting is well organised with resources laid out to provide a welcome for children as they arrive. Rooms used by the children are clean and spacious, enabling children to move around freely and safely. Registers are kept, but in a few cases do not show the actual hours of attendance, which affects children's safety. Overall children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop the evacuation plan and continue to develop knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities and the resources that reflect positive images of diversity.

The childminder has developed a written fire procedure, which children practise regularly. Emergency procedures, such as identifying other childminders who might be called upon to assist have been shared and agreed with parents. This helps keep children safe in an emergency.

Children play with a range of resources that show them positive images of society, such as dressing-up clothes, play figures, books and puzzles. Information about children's individual needs is collected from parents and carers so the childminder can meet children's individual needs.

## **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):

- keep an accurate record of attendance
- ensure the bathroom lock is inaccessible to children.

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)