

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	252624
<b>Inspection date</b>	03 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Patricia King
<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 1984. She lives with her partner in Mansfield Woodhouse which is in Nottinghamshire. The whole of the ground floor and the back bedroom on the first floor of the childminder's home is used 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 currently has three children aged under eight on roll. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools. The family has a dog.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is positively promoted and they are well protected from the risks of cross-infection and illness by the use of a good range of preventative measures. For example, the home is scrupulously clean, thorough hygiene practices prevent the spread of infection and parents are clearly informed that children will not be minded when infectious. Children are developing a good understanding of their personal care and are keen to describe how washing

their hands before eating, after using the toilet or handling animals gets rid of dirt and protects them from germs. The childminder is a good role model and talks to children about the importance of these practices. The childminder has established effective systems and documents to take appropriate action in the event of an accident and to administer any necessary medication. For example, she has obtained the parents' written permission to seek any necessary emergency advice or treatment and ensures that appropriate first aid equipment is kept within easy reach in the home and taken on outings.

Children are learning about the importance of eating fruit and vegetables daily to be healthy and grow strong. The childminder talks to the children about healthy eating and they are encouraged to try a wide variety of different tastes such as the celeriac on the lunchtime menu. Their daily dietary needs, personal choice and preferences are established with parents and the childminder works closely with the parents to ensure that a nutritious, balanced diet is maintained overall. Drinking water and healthy drinks are within easy reach at all times to promote independence and choice.

Children have daily outside play in the garden, weather permitting. They use outdoor equipment to balance, climb, ride on bikes and cars and play with balls and outdoor games. They are taken to the local parks to exercise and play on large physical equipment. This means that the outdoor environment is used effectively to promote the health and well-being of children. Children relax and sleep according to their needs because the childminder plans her home and routines effectively to offer opportunities for rest and quiet times.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has arranged her home well to provide a welcoming, secure environment suitable for the care of children. She has requested that an upstairs room is included in the areas of the home accessible to children which means that the landing area must be made safe. The ground floor is arranged effectively to provide opportunities for active, quiet and social play. Children can access a good range of quality resources which meet safety standards and are stored within easy reach. The childminder ensures that these comply with current safety standards so that children's safety is well maintained. A good range of safety equipment such as high chairs, socket covers and stair gates ensures that children's safety is given a high priority throughout the home.

Children are learning how to keep themselves safe, for example, they respond well to simple rules about not running and climbing in the home. However, the emergency evacuation procedure, recorded in detail by the childminder, is not practised with the children which means they may not be prepared to take appropriate action in the event of an emergency in the home. They are learning to keep safe outside the home by practising the green cross code and seeking the lollipop person to help them cross the road safely.

Children's safety and welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's secure understanding of child protection issues in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. The childminder ensures that children are only collected by their parents or named adults by prior written arrangements and children are never left alone with other adults.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder takes great care to know the children very well and has established close, warm relationships with them. This means they are settled and confident in her care and fully participate in the stimulating range of activities and toys provided. Children are proud to show their individual albums of their work and photos of them at play. They enthusiastically talk about what they have done such as exploring the garden for snails and other creatures, weighing, measuring and mixing ingredients for real and imaginary cakes and using the imaginative range of art and mark-making activities. The childminder is skilful at using spontaneous opportunities to capture children's interest and promote their learning such as counting the snails, identifying letters, numbers and comparing shapes and sizes in the world around them.

Children are confident speakers and enjoy chatting about their families, friends and their plans. For example, they explain that they have brought their boots and warm clothes today because it may snow and they want to build a snowman.

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

The provision is good.

Children's care and welfare is thoroughly discussed and agreed with the parents establishing a close working partnership to keep them fully informed and included in the care of their children. This means that the children's individual needs are carefully considered ensuring that they feel comfortable and confident in the childminder's care. She completes a daily diary of each child's routines, such as food and drink intake, activities and rest times, and encourages parents to add their comments and suggestions. This effective communication promotes a positive partnership with parents to keep them fully informed and included in the care of their children. The childminder demonstrates good understanding of how to manage the situation positively when recognising any health or special needs of minded child.

Children are learning about the wider world through a well-planned and organised range of activities and resources have been carefully chosen to increase the children's awareness of diversity. Children are learning to behave well, for example, they follow the sensible house rules childminder has established such as no climbing or jumping on the furniture. They listen carefully to the childminder and respond positively to her gentle reminders and consistent use of praise and encouragement.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has organised her home to provide a welcoming environment and takes care to establish all the necessary details to provide for children's individual needs. Consequently, children feel secure and settled in her care which means they have confidence to make choices, express their needs and make good progress in their overall development. Parents are fully informed and involved in the care of their children by daily diaries and discussion which means they can contribute to their child's continued development.

The childminder ensures that all documents and records necessary for the efficient and safe management of the provision are maintained and easily accessible. She has established a good range of policies and procedures to inform and support her daily practice and responsibilities. All adults in the household have been cleared and the children are well protected from visitors

by the childminder's secure systems and procedures. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop the information available to parents and opportunities for them to receive regular information on their child's progress. Partnership with parents is effectively promoted by the detailed information provided by the childminder about her services and daily records of the children's routines, development and learning whilst in her care.

### **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 have procedures for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents and to keep a record of complaints and their outcome.

## **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):

- promote safety within the premises by taking steps to ensure that the gap between the horizontal rails on the landing is sufficient to prevent a child passing through onto the stairs below and ensure that children can follow the emergency escape procedures planned for their safety.

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)