

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 252850          |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 23 October 2007 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Janice Walker   |
| <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 1994. She lives with her husband along with their teen-age son and ten-year old daughter, in Kirkby in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. The home is within walking distance of schools, parks and shops. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding along with the bathroom, main bedroom and back bedroom on the first floor. Children mainly play on the ground floor. Bathroom facilities are on the first floor and sleeping facilities are available on the ground floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have two Staffordshire Bull Terrier dogs as pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children aged under five years, two of whom attend full time, along with two children aged over eight who attend regularly after school. She also provides care for five children aged over five years, four of whom are aged over eight years, who attend on an occasional basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She does not have use of a vehicle. She attends the local parent and toddler groups and is an active member of the local childminding support group. She is also a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are looked after in a warm and clean environment. They are protected from the risk of spreading infection through the childminder's comprehensive cleaning routines along with her arrangements regarding the attendance of children who are unwell. Children are learning about basic personal hygiene through discussion and daily routines. For example, the childminder reminds them to wash their hands after using the toilet and ensures that they clean their hands with wet wipes before meals. There are good systems in place to care for children in the event of an accident or emergency as the childminder has written parental consent for emergency medical advice or treatment and first aid equipment is readily to hand at all times.

Children are well nourished. The childminder encourages children to follow a healthy diet through the provision of a varied and nutritious range of meals which are home-made, using fresh ingredients, and include a variety of fruits and vegetables. The childminder respects parent's wishes regarding meals, ensuring that she meets children's individual needs.

Children access regular fresh air and exercise through the daily walk to and from school. Weather permitting, they play in the garden and frequently visit local parks to climb and balance on the large apparatus. Younger children also access a range of toys encouraging their balance and co-ordination at the various social groups they attend and enjoy occasional visits to indoor soft play areas where the range of equipment provides a variety of physical challenges.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well protected as the childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibilities regarding child protection and has relevant contact numbers readily available if needed. Children are cared for in a safe, secure and well-maintained environment. They access good quality toys and the childminder monitors the condition of these as she supervises children's play, ensuring that they remain clean and safe for them to use.

The childminder has a good awareness of safety issues, she has a clear understanding of potential risks and has taken appropriate action, such as use of stair gates and drawer locks to minimise these. Children therefore freely and safely move around their environment and explore their play materials. Children are beginning to learn about possible dangers and how to keep themselves safe, for example, through discussion with the childminder, they learn how to evacuate the building in an emergency. Children begin to learn about possible dangers within the home and how to keep themselves safe: the childminder reminds them not to put small objects in their mouths because they might choke and to sit nicely on the chairs because otherwise they might fall off. Children's safety and welfare is promoted when outside of the home as the childminder establishes clear boundaries; children know the rules for crossing the road and for allowing pushchairs and wheelchairs to safely pass. There are well-considered systems in place to ensure that children can be appropriately cared for in the event of an emergency through the childminder's effective relationships with other local childminders.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy good relationships with the childminder; she creates a warm and friendly atmosphere and they are happy and settled within the home. They comfortably interact with her and move freely around their identified play areas, confidently engaging in conversation and play. They have formed good relationships with each other and play co-operatively together. Younger children actively seek out older ones, demonstrating their affection for them as they sit on their knee for cuddles and attention.

Younger children happily explore their toys although the childminder is not yet fully familiar with 'Birth to three matters' framework and is not yet using this to plan and evaluate young children's progress in order to identify the next steps in their development. She organises her time well, providing a good balance of indoor activities, along with time outside of the home. Children begin to develop their independence as they freely move around, selecting their toys from the large crates on the floor. They particularly enjoy the play kitchen equipment and confidently request familiar favourites such as drawing and colouring. Regular visits to many local groups introduce children to larger group play and support their developing social skills. School-age children play games and activities of their choice. Those wishing to engage in quieter activities after a busy day at school are able to do so. During holiday times, they enjoy outings to local places of interest and the childminder's active fundraising efforts enable them to enjoy outings with other locally minded children to places further afield.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as the childminder has a sound awareness of their individual needs. She demonstrates a positive attitude to caring with children with learning difficulties or disabilities and works closely with parents to ensure she is able to cater for their individual needs and care for them in line with home routines. Children learn about the local community as they access many local resources such as parent and toddler groups, the library, parks and shops. They begin to develop an awareness of diversity and understanding of others differences as the childminder has a suitable range of books and play materials that help to promote this. She supports this through the provision of a multi-cultural menu and by ensuring that children have opportunities to come into contact with local residents of varying social and cultural backgrounds and with disabilities.

Children behave well; the childminder is calm and positive with them, encouraging good behaviour by her example and through her ongoing praise. They know what is expected of them due to her clear and consistent boundaries and learn to respect their environment through daily routines such as tidying toys away when they are finished with. The childminder creates a friendly atmosphere where children are happy and relaxed. The childminder exchanges detailed verbal information with parents to ensure all children are cared for within their usual routines. However, written information is not available to ensure that they are well informed about her child care routines and practices. The childminder is respectful of parents' wishes and keeps them informed about children's daily care and activities. Children benefit from this positive working relationship and they are confident and happy in their environment.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has all required documentation in place to safeguard and promote children's welfare. She has established good record keeping systems and effective ongoing communication with parents to ensure she is able to identify and meet children's ongoing needs and provide consistent care. She demonstrates a commitment to continually improving her practice through attendance at a variety of courses to develop her knowledge and understanding of good child care practices.

Children access a safe and comfortable environment due to the childminder's effective organisation of space and they eat and rest comfortably and have ample space in which to play. They are developing in independence, as they are able to freely move around and make their own choices regarding their play. The childminder organises daily routines well so that children spend a good balance of time indoors and have many opportunities to explore the local environment and mix with other children. Overall children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, the provider agreed to two recommendations. She agreed to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. She has since purchased a range of toys and equipment promoting images of disabilities and different races which helps to support children's awareness and understanding of differences within society. She also agreed to obtain updated child protection information and she now has updated guidance, which helps to ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded.

## **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):

- improve outcomes for children under three by implementing an approach in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework

- continue to develop the systems of informing parents about your childminding routines and child care practices.

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)