

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	254404
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Jean Suff
<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 satisfactory. 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 1994. She lives with her husband, one children aged 15 years and an adult child in a house in a town in Rutland. The childminder is registered to care for six children under the age of eight and currently has nine children on roll. She also provides care for children over the age of eight. The childminder collects from one of the local primary schools and uses facilities such as toddler groups, nurseries, parks and the town centre which are within walking distance of the home. All areas of the property are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family has a pet rabbit.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted well as they are cared for in an environment that is clean and orderly. For example, the childminder ensures that children wash their hands before meals and after messy play. She takes positive steps to prevent cross-infection, such as wiping place mats with antibacterial spray and encouraging children to use disposable tissues. This protects

children's good health. Children's well-being is maintained as appropriate measures are taken when they are ill or have an accident. For example, permissions to seek emergency medical treatment are in place and first aid supplies are readily available. Children's health needs are identified and met as all issues are discussed with parents at an initial meeting and on an ongoing basis.

Children keep healthy because the childminder has a good understanding of nutrition and works well with parents to ensure children enjoy well-balanced packed lunches and snacks. They learn about healthy eating as the childminder plans activities, such as visiting the local market to choose and buy fruit, into their weekly routine. Children have free access to drinks, including water, to ensure they do not become thirsty whilst in her care.

The childminder gives priority to providing opportunities for children to experience the outdoor environment. Children have access to a secure garden with a range of small play equipment where they are able to develop their physical skills. Walks and visits to local shops and toddler groups are built into the daily routine and made interesting so children benefit from the fresh air and exercise. Children enjoy developing hand-eye coordination as they cut and stick pictures, draw with pencils and build with stacking or construction toys. They are able to rest or be active according to their individual needs.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a comfortable, warm and welcoming home. They keep safe because the environment is secure and the childminder reduces most risks. For example, she has stair gates and drawer locks in place and keeps the outside play area secure. This gives children suitable space and areas to play and explore safely. However, some hazards are within their reach in the bathroom and on the stairs posing a safety risk. Children develop good knowledge of keeping safe because the childminder shows them how to use play equipment appropriately, encourages their awareness of road safety when on outings and includes them in emergency evacuation procedures.

Children select from activities and play resources that are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. They keep safe when using toys and equipment because the childminder ensures play materials are kept in good condition. Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has arrangements in place in line with local child protection procedures. She has reliable knowledge of signs and symptoms of abuse and understands that the child is her first priority.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy, relaxed and settled in the care of the childminder. They have access to a good range of activities and play opportunities that are varied and flexible, and appropriate to their ages and stage of development. Children are confident in their surroundings and move freely between different play activities that develop their imagination, creativity and curiosity. They play with toys they have chosen and with the encouragement of the childminder they extend their learning and develop their skills. The childminder has a good understanding of children's developing needs and takes them to a wide range of places that help their social development such as music and toddler groups, the local library, market and fund-raising luncheon club.

Children relate well to adults and each other, for example, sitting together, looking at books and showing the childminder their achievements. The children in her care are secure and content, receiving praise as well as having time to play and explore toys and activities independently. Children's self-esteem, language and communication skills are actively promoted through the use of stories, rhymes and social interaction. Therefore, they learn to work cooperatively with each other, enjoy the activities and have fun.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for according to parental wishes as the childminder takes account of information supplied by them. Parents receive daily information to keep them informed about the setting and their child's activities and progress. The childminder has limited knowledge of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. This means that children's individual needs are less likely to be met.

Children are developing a respect for themselves and others because they have access to resources that reflect positive images of diversity such as books. They learn about their local community through regular trips to places of interest such as the library and market. However, the childminder is less confident in her knowledge of equality of opportunity which means that opportunities to fully promote this can be missed.

Children behave well and play harmoniously together. The childminder supports children's good behaviour through praise, encouragement and acting as a good role model. She uses sensitive and appropriate strategies taking account of children's stage of development, for example, offering alternative courses of action. This enables children to make choices about their behaviour whilst developing confidence and self-esteem.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall children's needs are met. Recruitment and vetting procedures ensure children are suitably protected and benefit from being cared for by a childminder who shows a sense of commitment to the children in her care. Children settle readily in the homely environment where they begin to develop secure relationships. They are gaining independence as they are able to move around, select toys and have adequate space to play and learn. Children enjoy the variety of outside activities that the childminder takes them to. The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of the National Standards, has undertaken initial training in childcare and she holds a current first aid qualification which includes training in first aid for infants and young children. Children's care and welfare is, therefore, enhanced. Required documentation is in place and used to underpin children's welfare. This is supplemented by information about routines and procedures that is shared with parents to ensure good continuity of care for children.

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

At the last care inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that an emergency evacuation plan is practised. This requirement has been met, therefore children's safety is enhanced. She was also asked to ensure that equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practices are promoted. Children can now access some resources that reflect positive images of diversity, such as books and a few dolls, however, the childminder is less confident in this area and misses opportunities

to promote equality of opportunity in the widest sense. Therefore, a further recommendation has been raised.

### **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 by 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 satisfactory. 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):

- take positive steps to ensure hazards to children are minimised with regard to items stored in the bathroom and on the stairs
- improve knowledge of equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice
- increase awareness of how to provide a wide range of experiences which promote the individual needs of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

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)