

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	260768
<b>Inspection date</b>	07 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Melanie Eastwell
<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 outstanding. 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 2001. She lives with her husband and two children, one of whom is an adult and the other is aged 13 in the Kingsthorpe area of Northampton. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder has a dog, cat and budgie. The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding nine children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder is a member of the Northamptonshire Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's continued good health is actively promoted because the childminder has excellent routines in place to maintain a healthy environment. The family pets are appropriately vaccinated and children only have supervised access to them. The toys are cleaned regularly and efficient practices are followed in the kitchen when food is prepared. Thorough routines are in place for nappy changes which ensure that children are protected from cross infection. Children who

have accidents are managed sensitively and appropriately because the childminder has a well-stocked first aid kit in an accessible place in the kitchen and also carries a small kit with her for use during outings if required. She holds a current first aid certificate. Detailed accident and medication records are kept which are signed by parents and contribute to children's well-being. Children are learning about effective methods for maintaining their own personal hygiene because the childminder talks to them about germs. They have their own towels in the bathroom and the childminder provides them with fun soap to encourage them to wash their hands thoroughly. Children's independence is promoted because the childminder provides them with a step so they can access the sink and toilet easily and safely.

Children's physical skills are developing well because the childminder ensures they have regular opportunities to play outside in the fresh air. They walk to and from school and enjoy stopping off at the park where they can use the fixed equipment to develop their balancing and climbing skills. Children also enjoy using the childminder's garden. They play games such as skipping, riding bikes, and bats and balls. Inside, the children's fine skills are actively promoted. They concentrate on activities such as threading, puzzles and construction toys that develop their hand and eye coordination. Children have opportunities to rest and sleep according to their individual requirements. The childminder organises the daily routine to include quiet time after lunch and children can rest on the settee or with a book whenever they wish. Babies individual routines are respected and discussed with their parents. The childminder ensures that babies lie flat when they sleep to ensure proper rest and comfort. Children enjoy eating their packed lunches provided by their parents. The childminder presents their food on plates and children sit together to eat which promotes a social atmosphere. Babies meals are prepared by their parents and are stored in labelled containers in the childminder's freezer for use each week. The childminder ensures that food is thoroughly reheated and allowed to cool. Children enjoy a great range of healthy breakfasts and snacks provided by the childminder including fruit and savoury choices. She talks to children about healthy food and encourages them to choose the fruit they want. Children do not become thirsty because they are provided with drinks of water, sugar free juice and milk at regular intervals during the day.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's safety is given the highest priority by the childminder who successfully identifies and takes steps to reduce risks to children. For example, children have an area of the living room dedicated to their play and activities. They do use the rest of the room under the supervision of the childminder. This area has a gate across which ensures the family dog can see the children but not get into the area with the toys. The dog has a secure, indoor kennel in which it sleeps for part of the day when children are present. This ensures that children can have supervised access to the dog while remaining safe. The childminder talks to children about safety in the garden and the importance of not touching berries or prickly plants. She is aware of overhanging plants from neighbours gardens and takes steps to ensure children do not have access to them. This helps children learn how to keep themselves safe in the garden. The childminder has written risk assessments which are reflected in her daily checks around the areas of her home used by the children to promote their safety. Children begin to learn about keeping themselves safe during outings. They understand the boundaries such as walking together on the inside of the pavement and holding hands or the buggy. The childminder talks to them about how to cross the road safely such as stopping, looking and listening for traffic which helps older children particularly to understand the importance of good road sense.

Children understand about emergency evacuation procedures because they practise these regularly with the childminder.

Children benefit greatly from the wide range of play materials and activities provided by the childminder. They are encouraged to select their own choices from the book cases and boxes, which are regularly rotated by the childminder. The way that play materials are stored promotes children's independence and their awareness of safety for everyone, because they help enthusiastically to tidy away when they have finished playing. The play materials and equipment are safe, suitable and cover all areas of development for children of various ages. Children are encouraged to ask for items they want and the childminder willingly brings out favourite toys that they request. Babies needs are met through the good range of equipment such as buggies, car seats and a travel cot which are well maintained and are available for use as necessary. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a good understanding of the procedures to follow regarding reporting and recording all child protection concerns according to the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines. The required documentation is in place and the childminder is fully aware of the need to maintain confidentiality when managing such issues.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy attending this warm and welcoming setting where they can play freely with their chosen activities. They relish the highly positive interaction from the childminder who is skilled at meeting their individual needs. She actively promotes their learning during activities by extending their conversation and vocabulary and asks meaningful questions about what they are doing. Children's learning, confidence and self-esteem is promoted because the childminder gives lots of praise for their efforts and achievements through smiling at them and the positive language she uses. She recognises when children try hard to succeed at their chosen task and suggests ways they might find the task easier without stepping in and taking over. This gentle reassurance enables children to feel confident to try new experiences. Children are introduced to colours, numbers and counting during a threading activity, the childminder asks them to find the number embossed on the threading counters and to choose the colour they want to use next. A child notices that they have made a sequencing pattern with their threading and the childminder praises them for this. The child is encouraged to continue with their sequencing pattern through this acknowledgement of their achievement from the childminder. Babies are provided with suitable activities that encourage them to explore and to be curious. They have space to roll around and crawl safely. Children enjoy books. They select these from the book case and the childminder sits with them to read. They join in with familiar parts of stories and enjoy pointing out different things in the pictures. Children are confident to sit close to the childminder and bring a selection of books to look at together. Children enjoy exploring a 'feely box'. The childminder hides a number of different objects in a closed box and encourages the children to describe how their chosen item feels before guessing what it is. Children's faces show their concentration as they touch the items inside and their vocabulary is promoted because they use words such as 'squidgy' to describe a sponge before pulling it out of the box. The childminder encourages children's creative expression by providing a great variety of seasonal art and craft activities. She encourages them to use pencils and practise mark making. The childminder is skilled at incorporating different areas of learning into craft activities. For example, children learn how to use scissors, to use their imagination and about shapes and colours while making cards and pictures.

The childminder records plans of activities on a whiteboard each week for parents to see. This ensures that children are provided with a balanced range of activities that are planned for their individual needs, preferences and cover all areas of development. Younger children benefit from the childminder's good understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and she uses this knowledge to plan and provide a lovely range of activities for children to promote their development. She records their achievements through written observations and photographs which are shared with parents and these records are used to plan future activities for individual children. The childminder's gentle, reassuring, highly positive approach and interaction promotes children's individual care, development and feelings of confidence and self-esteem.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individuality is highly respected by the childminder who makes every effort to promote and celebrate diversity. Children show a clear sense of belonging in the childminder's home, they are familiar with the daily routines, are confident to choose their own play materials and to seek reassurance from the childminder as they need it. Children are learning about the wider world because the childminder has a good range of resources such as dressing up clothes, dolls and small world characters that show positive images of people. Children benefit from the wealth of books the childminder has that clearly explain differences to children regarding religion, beliefs, skin tone and clothing. The childminder ensures she is with the children when they access these books to be able to answer any questions that may arise. This develops children's awareness and acceptance of people's individuality. Children enjoy celebrating festivals including Diwali, Chinese New Year and Christmas. The childminder carries out thorough research to ensure she is prepared and provides children with information about the story behind the festival and activities that are age-appropriate and meaningful to them. All children are warmly welcomed into the childminder's home and are fully involved in all activities following careful discussion with their parents to ensure that any specific needs can be met effectively.

Children behave very well because they understand the expectations for behaviour and they are provided with an interesting range of activities. They enjoy and benefit from the childminder's attention and involvement with their play because she talks to them and makes sure she listens to their thoughts and opinions. They respond to the childminder's gentle reminders to be careful and to think of others. She makes time to explain why certain behaviour is unacceptable which helps children to understand how others are affected by their actions. The childminder understands the importance of providing children with plenty of positive reinforcement, praise and encouragement and this has a positive impact on children's behaviour. Children benefit from the good relationships between their parents and the childminder because she ensures that any issues are discussed promptly when they arise and encourages parents to inform her about what the child has been doing at home. Parents are welcomed into the childminder's home and have access to the plans of activities each week and their child's records. All the required parental consents are in place and the childminder has a system to record any complaints which may arise from parents relating to the National Standards.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Overall children's needs are met. They enjoy attending this friendly, relaxed and well-organised setting. Children's individual needs are effectively met by the childminder who uses her skills

to provide an interesting and stimulating range of activities suitable for a variety of ages. Children respond to her calm, consistent and gentle manner and therefore the atmosphere is harmonious and productive. Children's care, safety, development and well-being are given the highest priority by the childminder who arranges her childminding commitments to ensure that each child receive sufficient one to one attention. Effective use is made of the available space. Children can select their own activities, their independence is promoted and they can rest and relax as they wish.

Children's individual requirements are well supported through the childminder's excellent documentation which is very well-organised and is kept up-to-date. Confidentiality is effectively maintained and the written policies and procedures are clearly reflected in the childminder's daily activity with children. She is very keen to keep her knowledge up-to-date and regularly attends training courses that enhance her practice with children. The childminder is an active member of the local childminding support group through the Northamptonshire Childminding Association and finds the support and encouragement from the development worker helpful in her business.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to practise the emergency evacuation procedure. Written records are kept of the regular evacuation drills that take place by the childminder and with the children. The action taken promotes children's safety and develops their awareness of the procedures to follow in an emergency.

### **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 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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)