

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY289749
<b>Inspection date</b>	03 December 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Hazel Christine White

<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 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged seven and ten years. They live in the Coventry area of the West Midlands. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and uses recreational areas for outside play. The family has a cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently caring for three children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn about hygiene routines and personal care. They are beginning to understand that they follow hand washing procedures to prevent the spread of germs. Older children attend to their own personal care and nappy

changing routines are good. They rest and sleep according to their home routines and are appropriately monitored. Children's health is satisfactorily promoted because the childminder has a current first aid certificate and clear recording procedures for accidents and administering medication. The first aid box is sufficiently stocked.

Children are appropriately nourished because they are provided with various hot and cold snacks. They have access to fruit and a range of drinks throughout the day. Children's individual dietary needs are met because discussions take place with parents to ensure that allergies and preferences are known. Children are unlikely to suffer a stomach upset due to unsafe food because satisfactory food hygiene practices are followed.

Children have a general range of activities which contribute to their physical health. They enjoy visits to the park and attend childminding groups so they have access to large equipment. As a result, they develop their skills and confidence as they climb, jump and balance. Children are beginning to learn that being active promotes good health and the impact on their body is that it helps to build strong muscles and bones.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure home. Space is sufficiently organised to enable children to safely experience a variety of play opportunities. A welcoming environment is created by setting toys out ready for when children arrive. Potential risks have been identified and minimised and daily checks ensure that children move around the home safely. Through discussion children are beginning to understand how to keep themselves safe. They are learning that they need to stay close to the childminder when out of the home and must wait until they are told it is safe to cross the road. Children wear wrist bands so they are easily identifiable when they go on organised trips. Sensitive discussions about 'stranger danger' ensure that children are developing an awareness of how to protect themselves from unknown adults.

Children choose from toys of good quality and daily checks are made to ensure that they are safe and suitable to use. Baby toys are monitored and older children learn about safety rules, such as not running indoors because they could trip and hurt themselves. Although the childminder has an emergency evacuation plan, this has not been practised, therefore children's safety may be compromised as they are not aware of the procedure to follow in the event of a fire. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a sound working knowledge of child protection procedures.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well in the home and play with a general range of activities which keep them keen and motivated to learn. Resources are suitable for their age- and stage-of-development and most are easily accessible. The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of child development and the children's current interests are well known. Children enjoy being creative and have regular opportunities to paint, make cards for special occasions and play with dough. They use their imagination as they dress-up and make up their own games using play figures and cars. Children take part in simple cooking activities such as making cakes and decorating biscuits.

Children are becoming independent as they choose from the range of resources, such as books, construction toys, play dough and jigsaws. Toys are rotated to keep them interested and they move freely between activities. Children experience a good range of learning and play opportunities through visits and outings. For example, trips to Hatton Park, Twycross Zoo and the Purple Planet. They are gaining an interest in reading by attending 'footsteps into books' sessions.

Children make good relationships with the childminder. They are shown affection and interaction is good. They are encouraged to ask questions in order to acquire new knowledge and skills. The childminder joins in with their spontaneous play and cuddles and reassurance are freely given.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have their individual needs met because the childminder has a good awareness of each child's requirements. They choose from a satisfactory range of resources which develop a positive understanding of diversity and the wider world. For example, children join in festival celebrations in the home and at the childminder group. They make cards for Christmas and Easter and divas for Diwali.

Children's individual needs are discussed with parents. Although the childminder has no experience of providing care for children with learning difficulties or disabilities, she is aware of children's developmental stages. Consequently, she feels able to approach parents if she is concerned about children's progress and obtain appropriate support to ensure that they can make progress.

Children are aware of rules regarding behaviour and learn to share, take turns and consider others. They respond positively when praised and are rewarded for good behaviour, therefore raising their self-esteem. Children are told when they are being good and are rewarded with stickers which they put onto a chart, as a result positive behaviour is effectively encouraged. Children know the 'house rules' and are encouraged to behave well. The childminder is consistent in her management, a good role model and takes account of different levels of children's development.

Children develop a sense of belonging because they are offered a settling-in period and gradual visits. Parents regularly share information about their child's needs, interests and experiences to ensure continuity of care. Good communication exists which promotes the children's welfare, care and learning.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a relaxed, homely environment. Space is sufficiently organised to enable children to enjoy a general variety of activities. Children are confident and select from readily available resources. Regular visits outside of the home contributes to children's social skills.

Policies and procedures are satisfactory in promoting the welfare, care and learning of the children. Communication with parents is good; they have daily opportunities for discussion about their child's care. The childminder's practice is appropriate in meeting the needs of

individual children. She has all the required information and consent from parents. Although the childminder has not attended any recent courses she is interested in training to keep her knowledge and skills updated. Overall, children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that daily attendance records accurately reflected children's times of arrival and departure, ensure children had an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice and to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. Attendance records include the actual times that children attend, therefore they are accurately accounted for. Toys and books which positively promote diversity have been added to the resources, consequently children are increasing their knowledge and understanding of the wider world. Written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment has been sought, therefore positive steps have been taken to promote children's health and safety.

### **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 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):

- practise the emergency escape plan.

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)