

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	209675
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Valerie Thomas
<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 was registered in 1993. She lives with her husband and one daughter aged eight years in Stafford. The whole ground floor and toilet facilities on the first floor are used for childminding.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five years and seven children over five years on a part-time basis. The childminder takes and collects children to and from the local school. The family has a dog and a cat.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Procedures to promote children's health and hygiene are appropriate. They wash their hands after using the toilet and use antibacterial gel for their hands before they sit and eat their lunch. During food preparation the childminder wears a disposable apron. There is a clear policy

in place for excluding sick and infectious children. This helps to limit the spread of infection and helps children to remain healthy.

Children's health and safety is promoted adequately. Records of accidents occurring contain sufficient detail and they are signed by parents to acknowledge the entry. Written consent is obtained to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for most children although it is not in place for every child. Potentially, this does not ensure that children's needs are met if a medical emergency arose.

The childminder works in partnership with parents to ensure children's dietary needs are met. Menus are planned in advance with child choice encouraged. Children choose spaghetti to eat with the potatoes and fish fingers which they enjoy and eat well. Healthy choices for snacks include fruit and plain biscuits and children say that they like to eat apples and bananas. This encourages children to develop a positive attitude to healthy eating.

Children's physical development is promoted well. Children go for regular walks in the local area and often walk to and from school. They visit a local activity centre and park and go to feed the ducks. Inside, they take part in dancing and exercising to the music. This encourages children to develop a healthy lifestyle.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

There is good space within the home to enable children to play comfortably with the toys and equipment and the play room is welcoming with posters displayed. However, the childminder has recently moved premises and the home is currently undergoing some renovation work. The carpet in the lounge is stained and the fireplace is open and in the process of being changed. This does not promote children's welfare. There is a suitable range of toys available in the playroom which children can easily access and there are additional ones stored in the loft to offer variation.

There are satisfactory processes in place to keep children safe. The kitchen cupboards are fitted with locks to ensure that children cannot access cleaning materials and there are smoke alarms at both levels of the house. Children learn the importance of keeping themselves safe. They learn that they need to blow on their food so that they do not burn their mouth and that they should sit on one chair rather than a set of stacked ones. Fire drills are practised each month and children know that when they hear the whistle they must stop and go outside.

The childminder has an appropriate understanding of child protection issues and has a written policy in place to give guidance. She has a clear understanding of signs and symptoms that may alert to child abuse. This helps to safeguard children.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children experience a varied range of activities which contributes to their development. Children are interested and enjoy playing with the dinosaurs developing their imagination as they make them jump onto the tractor. They concentrate well as they draw pictures with the felt tip pens and cut out shapes which they manage competently. The childminder promotes children's language skills effectively during routines and play. As they sit and look at the picture cards

they confidently name the objects and receive good support to help them say the correct sounds for the letters. Children enjoy talking about their pets at home and making noises like a monkey.

Children's independence skills are developing well as they go to the toilet and wash their hands. They help to wipe the table clean for lunch and take off their shoes when they come home from school. Children are happy and confident and enjoy the positive interaction they receive from the childminder.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The range of resources that promote positive images of culture, gender and disability are limited and the childminder has only a basic understanding of how to promote equal opportunities. This does not help children develop their knowledge of the wider world and their understanding of others. Children are valued as individuals and their wishes are respected. Their needs are fully discussed with parents and details of their likes and dislikes are gathered at the initial visits. Although there are no children currently attending with learning difficulties and/or disabilities the childminder fully understands the need to work in partnership with parents and to obtain any specific equipment if needed.

Good procedures are in place to manage children's behaviour. There is a written statement which is discussed and agreed with parents. Children behave well together and the childminder reinforces consistent messages such as not allowing them to touch the antibacterial spray bottle which they accept. This helps them to feel secure knowing what they can and cannot do. Good use of praise by the childminder helps to build children's self-esteem well.

Positive relationships with parents are promoted effectively. All policies are agreed and there is a notice board in the playroom which displays a poster with the regulator's details and child protection guidance. There is a complaints policy which is shared with parents and letters on file show that they are happy with their child's care. Daily discussion ensures they are fully informed of their child's well-being. This enables parents and the childminder to work together to meet the needs of the child.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and gains support from relevant professionals to develop the level of care she offers. Her knowledge of the national standards is satisfactory and the childminder understands her responsibility to notify Ofsted of any significant events. Records of children's details and attendance are kept with appropriate consent forms in place for most children.

Children are at home in the appropriately organised environment. They are able to move around freely and make decisions about their play from the boxes of toys available in the playroom. They are confident to develop their independence as they go to the toilet by themselves. Children are happy receiving cuddles and positive interaction. Overall, children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to: ensure that any concerns are recorded and reported to Social Services or the police in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children

Boards procedures and ensure that Ofsted is informed of any allegations of abuse while the child is in the care of the childminder; ensure the premises are clean; extend knowledge of communicable diseases as defined by the Health Protection Agency and relevant reporting procedures and comply with conditions of registration with regard to displaying the certificate.

The childminder has relevant guidance in relation to child protection procedures and has developed her knowledge with regard to the action she needs to take. She is fully aware that any concerns are to be reported to the relevant agencies and there is a written policy which details this. This helps to safeguard children. The kitchen is kept clean through daily cleaning while the children are at school and nursery and the cat is not allowed on the work surfaces. This helps to promote children's health. To extend her knowledge of communicable and notifiable diseases the childminder has acquired information from the internet and the new 'Early Years Foundation Stage' documents. She now has a detailed list and guidance and fully understands what needs to be reported. This helps to protect children against infection. The certificate of registration is displayed on the notice board in the playroom for parents to view. This promotes the welfare of children.

### **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):

- ensure written consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is in place for all children
- develop awareness of how to promote equal opportunities and increase the range of resources that promote positive images of diversity
- continue with the plans to maintain the premises in a suitable state of cleanliness, repair and decoration; this relates to the carpet and fire place in the lounge.

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)