

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	260311
<b>Inspection date</b>	20 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Kate Bryan
<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 has been registered since 2002, she lives with her husband and four children of 16, 15, 13 and eight years in the Braunstone area of Leicester. Minded children have access to the ground floor, which includes the lounge, dining kitchen, bedroom and shower room. There is a fully enclosed rear garden.

The family has a cat.

The childminder is registered to look after three children and currently has four on roll, she also looks after some children aged over eight years.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are learning about personal hygiene and self-care as they wash their hands in routine activities, such as after using the toilet. They are well protected from health risks because the childminder has effective systems in place to promote good hygiene and safeguard children from the risks of cross-contamination, such as liquid soap and a clean towel daily. There are also clear agreements with parents that children are not minded whilst infectious and a 24 hour exclusion period ensures all children's health is well maintained. Children's health and welfare are promoted by the clear systems and records kept to take appropriate action in the event of an accident and to administer any necessary medication. However, there is no consent for emergency medical treatment which means children's health may be compromised.

Children have daily exercise in the garden or as they walk to school and the childminder has a range of equipment which includes ride on toys, tunnels and a small trampoline. This ensures children's physical development is promoted appropriately.

Children are learning about the importance of eating fruit and vegetables daily and grow their own vegetables, such as carrots and Brussel sprouts which they then eat. The childminder also uses activities such as shopping and baking to talk to children about healthy options. Children have fruit for snacks and drinks of no sugar cordial, milk or water so their health is promoted. Children's individual dietary needs are established at admission so their health is well maintained.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure and well-maintained home and they are kept safe because the childminder is vigilant about their safety. A good range of measures are in place to ensure this, such as a stair gate, restraints to kitchen cupboards and a secure and enclosed outdoor area. This means children can move around confidently making good use of the areas used for childminding. Older children can independently select activities from a broad range of toys and equipment, these are rotated for younger children to ensure they have a variety. The childminder ensures all equipment meets safety standards and is regularly cleaned and checked.

Children are learning how to keep themselves safe as they understand simple rules about not climbing on furniture within the home. They are also learning to keep safe outside the home by practising road safety and the childminder always takes a mobile phone so she has contacts available in an emergency. Appropriate fire safety equipment is available and children have practised an escape plan so they know what to do if the need arises.

Children's safety and welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's good understanding of child protection issues in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. She understands who to contact if she has any concerns and has contact numbers readily available.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and uses this to plan a range of activities for children. A varied range of toys and play resources are also

easily accessible to support children's play and learning. Children's awareness of numbers is well promoted as the childminder uses routine activities, such as counting cars when they are out walking, so children become familiar with this. The childminder also sings to children and reads to them so they learn how language works. Young children's communication is well promoted as the childminder talks to them and uses phonics so they begin to understand how words are formed.

Children are very settled and comfortable in the childminder's care because she takes the time to ensure she knows their individual needs. Young children also have lots of individual care due to their attendance patterns, this increases their confidence and sense of belonging well. Babies have the opportunity to play with a range of resources such as soft and noisy toys which encourages them to use their senses and explore the environment. Older children can enjoy activities such as arts and crafts, play dough, baking, small world play and gardening. The childminder has a good awareness of providing activities for a range of ages as after school children can choose to play on the play station, enjoy games, complete their homework or relax and watch the television.

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

The provision is good.

Children's care and welfare is thoroughly discussed and agreed with parents because the childminder talks to them daily and completes a diary for babies. This ensures parents know all relevant details about their child's day, such as sleeps and food eaten. Children also take home work they have completed so parents can share in their achievements. The childminder shows a good understanding of how to make sure all children are included in all activities and for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities she adapts these if required so they can all participate in the life of the home.

Children behave well because the childminder discusses simple house rules with them. These include talking nicely to each other so the children understand what is expected of them. The childminder manages behaviour in an age-appropriate way by distracting younger children and offering older children the opportunity to discuss issues or have time out. Good behaviour is rewarded with lots of praise and stars so children know they have been acknowledged.

Children are learning about the wider community appropriately as the childminder has a range of resources which promote positive images, for example, dressing up clothes, finger puppets and figures. Children are encouraged to respect each other and value differences because the childminder treats them as individuals and ensures they all have the same opportunities.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children feel secure and settled in the childminder's home because she has organised the environment to ensure they are always within sight or sound of her. Space and resources are organised well to provide children with a range of activities which promotes their development. For example, children can enjoy quiet time in a ground floor bedroom, watch television and enjoy floor activities in the lounge and table activities in the kitchen. The childminder ensures that most documents and records necessary for the efficient and safe management of the provision are maintained. Arrangements promote children's, health, safety and enjoyment well.

All adults in the household have been cleared and the children are well protected from visitors by the childminder's secure systems and procedures. Parents know how children will be cared for because the childminder shares a welcome pack with them. The childminder has completed an Introduction to Childminding Practice course, a first aid course and child protection training, this shows her commitment to providing a good service to children. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

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

At the last inspection the provider agreed to ensure sharp knives are made inaccessible; ensure the daily record of attendance is accurate and up to date and to obtain written permission from parents for outings and for transporting children in a vehicle. All records are now in place to ensure children are kept safe and sharp knives are inaccessible which further enhances their 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 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):

- make sure that written parental permission is requested, at the time of the placement, for the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

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)