

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** EY355287  
**Inspection date** 03 April 2008  
**Inspector** Karen Eunice Millerchip

**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** 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 was registered in 2007 and lives with her partner in Tile Hill, Coventry. The whole of the ground floor and the first floor bathroom and rear bedroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder can take children to and collect from local schools and pre-school groups. The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and currently has nine children on roll. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and holds a Level 3 qualification in childcare.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because they follow thorough hygiene routines and learn the importance of personal care. All children have their own towels for hand washing and more able children know this is necessary to prevent the spread of germs. There are effective arrangements in place to ensure children are well cared for in the event of illness or accident. Parents are informed

of the sickness procedure verbally and in writing which ensures that they are fully aware that their children will not be cared for with any infectious illness. The childminder is trained in administering first aid and has the appropriate permissions and records in place regarding accidents and the administration of medication.

Children are well nourished. They are provided with a good range of healthy cooked meals and snacks such as pasta dishes, meat or fish and vegetables and various sandwiches. Children are offered drinks regularly throughout the day and are encouraged to choose healthy options for their mid morning snack. They have their health and dietary needs met effectively because the childminder works well with parents. Individual needs are discussed and recorded. Parents can view the menu and their food preferences are taken into account.

Children enjoy the fresh air and get plenty of physical exercise. They have access to a range of equipment in the garden which helps to develop their physical skills. Children also participate in a range of activities outside the home. They go for walks to the local parks and regularly visit groups which provide them with more challenges as they enjoy developing skills using large climbing apparatus and soft play equipment.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure indoor and outdoor environment. Space is well organised to allow them to move around freely and independently. Children have access to a good range of quality toys, furniture and equipment which ensures that their needs are met. Priority is given to their safety and potential risks to children have been identified. Safety measures have been put in place, for example, stair gates, cupboard locks and socket covers. The premises are kept secure to prevent children leaving unsupervised however, the back door is made secure by several locks and bolts which could hinder a quick exit in the case of an emergency.

Children learn to keep themselves safe when they are inside and outside of the home, through discussions. They are reminded to tidy toys away so they do not trip over them and learn about road safety, for example, using patrolled crossings when they can and listening to instructions. Children understand the importance of fire safety and know the procedure for evacuation in an emergency because they practise it. The childminder has a written emergency evacuation procedure and she records when fire drills take place to ensure all children are familiar with the procedure.

There are clear written procedures to ensure children are collected only by authorised people, for example, the childminder insists on personally meeting anyone who has parents' permission to collect a child from her care or in the case of an emergency the use of a password. She is aware of her role and responsibility to safeguard children and has a good understanding of child protection issues and procedures, which are necessary to protect the welfare of children.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed in a very welcoming child-orientated environment. They are able to access a wide variety of resources for themselves because they are well organised in low cupboards and containers. Therefore, children use their initiative and make decisions about their play. Children's confidence and self-esteem develops through receiving praise and

encouragement and their individual needs are met through the varied range of age and stage appropriate toys. The childminder adapts activities as necessary to promote young children's learning. Her good understanding of child development ensures that all children have a broad variety of activities and opportunities to help them progress in all areas.

Daily routines are flexible to ensure that the needs of the children are met. Toys and resources are rotated on a regular basis to maintain children's interest and ensure that they are having fun. Children acquire new knowledge and skills as the childminder consistently and positively interact with them to encourage their interest, involvement and learning. They are learning to recognise numbers, colours shapes and letters in daily routines and everyday situations.

Children have regular opportunities to socialise in group situations and mix with children of their own age. They visit local places of interest, for example, the park, toy resource centre and library. The childminding and parent and toddler groups enable children to participate in additional activities such as soft play equipment and organised creative play.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are supported well because the childminder makes sure they are welcomed into her home and feel a sense of belonging. Their personal needs are discussed with parents and routines and preferences are followed. Gradual introductions help children to settle in and feel comfortable. Children are confident and they are encouraged to make choices and take responsibility for their own decisions.

Children have access to a good range of resources that teach them about diversity. Books, puzzles and multicultural dolls and play figures enhance the children's knowledge and understanding of race, culture, gender and ability. All children are included in activities and have free access to a vast assortment of toys. Ongoing discussions with parents ensure children's changing needs are identified and provided for.

Partnership with parents is open and honest and children are cared for in accordance with parents' wishes. A clear and detailed prospectus is provided to parents about the childminding practice and service. This includes training certificates, policies and procedures, a daily diary and photographs to recall and reflect upon.

Children's behaviour is managed consistently using effective ways which include, distracting children, making sure that they are occupied and busy and using strategies in line with their age and maturity. Consequently behaviour is good and children are happy. They understand responsible behaviour and respond well to clear behaviour management strategies which are shared with and understood by parents. The house rules are displayed on the wall and discussed with the children to ensure a common understanding of expectations. Children are able to share their toys and enjoy playing together which helps them to develop caring relationships. They are praised frequently and as a result show good levels of self-esteem.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and settled in a well-organised environment. Regular information is shared with parents and this contributes to the children's continuity of care. Effective use is made of space to ensure all children have the opportunity to complete activities, relax, and play in

comfort. Children follow established routines which have good regard for their individual needs. Children are confident and relaxed within the family environment.

All required documentation is very well maintained. Children's records are well kept and include all relevant details. Records are organised well in individual files and are easily accessible. A prospectus is given to all parents that outlines the service provided, policies and procedures and examples of menus and weekly planning. The childminder continues to develop her knowledge and update her skills by attending various training courses on all aspects of childcare. Overall, children's needs are met.

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

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider to take actions 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):

- ensure the back door can be easily opened in an emergency.

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)