

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY344640
<b>Inspection date</b>	04 August 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Ann Winifred Harrison
<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 was registered 2007 and works with another childminder and an assistant. She lives with her mother and father in the Dosthill area of Tamworth, within walking distance of public transport, shops and schools. The lounge, dining room, kitchen and downstairs toilet are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding six children under five years and five children over five years on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She holds a relevant early years qualification.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a clean, well-organised home. They are beginning to learn the importance of hygiene through daily routines, older children understand why they must wash their hands after using the toilet. They use liquid soap and paper towels which promotes their self-care and reduces the risk of cross-infection. However, the hand washing

routine before eating is not always consistent which potentially compromises children's health. There are good arrangements for protecting children from illness as the childminder does not care for sick or infectious children. The childminder is familiar with the procedure for notifiable and communicable diseases and the necessary responses. This means children's welfare is protected. Accident and medication records are in place, appropriate treatment given and parents' signatures and consents have been obtained. Procedures in case of illness and who to contact in case of emergencies are fully detailed. This information helps to ensure appropriate action is taken to care for children who become ill. Procedures such as cleanliness of toys and equipment, sustain sound levels of hygiene and help reduce cross-infection.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities, which contribute to their good health. Regular outdoor play is a part of their daily routine, they enjoy playing in the garden on bikes and sit and ride toys and they are taken to local parks to participate in physical activities such as football and using climbing equipment and slides. They go on regular walks and particularly enjoy going to feed the ducks. This gives them plenty of exercise and fresh air. The childminder works with the parents to ensure that they provide nutritional snacks and healthy meals. The childminder ensures that any special dietary needs are adhered to. Drinks are available at all times so that children can drink when they are thirsty which helps to promote children's welfare.

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a safe and well-organised environment and are closely supervised at all times. They can independently access a range of stimulating toys and equipment which are well maintained by the childminder. Space is well organised to allow children to move around freely, safely and independently. Effective organisation of resources enable children to make choices and initiate their own play as toys in the lounge and dining room are easily accessible to the children. The childminder ensures that all equipment is regularly cleaned and checked which helps to ensure children's safety.

Good attention is given to keeping children safe. The house is secure, with locks and alarms on doors to prevent strangers entering and children leaving unsupervised. The childminder uses a good range of safety equipment such as safety gates, socket covers, smoke detectors and a fire blanket to ensure children are not exposed to dangers. Children learn how to keep themselves safe through the clear boundaries set by the childminder. They learn that they must stop, look and listen before crossing the road and they know to stay close to the childminder when on outings. They know how to practise the fire drill and that they must not touch any plants or berries when out walking. This helps children to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

The childminder has some understanding of child protection issues. She has a good understanding of signs and symptoms that may alert her to child abuse and she is aware of the procedure to follow if an allegation is made against herself. However, she is not fully aware of the procedures for reporting her concerns and this means children are not fully protected.

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

The provision is good.

Children experience a positive, warm relationship with the childminder, which increases their sense of trust and well-being. She builds children's confidence through praise and encouragement. For example, she praises them for eating their lunch and for picking up toys.

Children are confident and at home in the well-organised environment. They move around freely to make decisions about their play and develop their independence well. For example, they enjoy selecting activities such as books, puzzles and construction toys. Space is organised so young children can crawl and walk around to explore their environment. They explore different textures and materials as they play. They model with play dough and enjoy sticking and gluing collage materials. The childminder plans activities in advance to ensure they are age-appropriate, but is flexible and will change her plans if the children lose interest. She constantly talks to the children during activities to promote their development and understanding. For example, she helps children to develop their communication skills through some basic sign language and using rhymes and action songs. Younger children particularly enjoy using finger puppets for songs such as 'Five little men in a flying saucer' which also helps children with counting skills. Older children enjoy putting on talent shows and art and craft activities.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time in the childminder's home. They achieve well because the childminder provides a good variety of activities to help children make progress. Children receive a high level of individual attention as the childminder spends most of her time working directly with them and ensures their individual routine needs are met. Parents are regularly informed on their children's progress and activities, this contributes to continuity in the children's care. The childminder is using the 'Birth to three matters' framework well to enable her to plan and provide suitable play activities for children under three years. She observes the children to find out what they know and she plans for their individual next steps in children's learning to enhance their progress.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle well in the childminder's home. They are valued and respected as individuals by the childminder. Their individual needs are met well as they follow their normal daily routines as discussed with parents. They enjoy individual attention and have opportunities to choose what they want to play with and where they play. She provides a meaningful range of activities to promote a positive view of the wider world. For example, they cover topics such as 'People of the world' as they look at books and collect pictures of people from different countries. Children learn to value people's differences through sensitive discussions when they watch television and read stories about disabilities and gender roles. Currently, there are no children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities or children with English as an additional language, but the childminder has a good practical awareness and past experience of how to include and appropriately care for children's individual needs.

The childminder has a good understanding of how to manage children's behaviour to promote their welfare and development. She encourages good behaviour by regularly giving praise and encouragement and she has a variety of strategies suitable to the age range of the children to deal with unwanted behaviour. For example, she uses distraction with young children and for older children she sits and talks to them calmly for a few minutes and explains why it is unacceptable. As a result, children play well together and behave well.

The childminder provides detailed information about the service that she provides including her clear, well-written policies, daily routines and family details. She completes daily diaries for younger children which inform parents of what their child has eaten, nappy changes and sleep routines. Parents are made welcome in the setting and are made aware of how the setting operates through the discussion of policies and procedures at registration. There is a complaints procedure in place, which has been updated in line with current legislation which means parents

know how to voice their concerns. The childminder ensures parents are provided with information on how to contact Ofsted in the event of a complaint. This ensures parents are involved and contribute to the quality of care their children receive. Children take samples of artwork home to help parents to be involved in their learning and development.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from a well-organised environment. Activities and resources are arranged at appropriate heights and levels to enable children to initiate their own play. The childminder organises her time sufficiently well to be able to give children individual attention. There are suitable arrangements to protect children from persons who are not vetted. Children are settled and happy.

A good range of policies and procedures are maintained and shared with parents, they are kept well informed about their child's routines and activities. All necessary documentation contributing to the children's well-being, health, safety and care are in place and are regularly reviewed. For example, accident and medication consent procedures. Individual records are completed for each child and written agreements are in place with each parent. The registration certificate is fully displayed.

Children benefit from a childminder who attends training courses to update her knowledge and skills. She holds a relevant early years qualification and since registration she has attended courses such as first aid, child protection and the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children's needs are met effectively through the good use of space and resources. Their care is enhanced by efficient and effective organisation. The childminder has a routine and prepares for each session with relevant age-appropriate resources. Free play, craft time, and outdoor play are included to ensure children have a good balance of educational and developmental experiences. 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 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):

- increase further the knowledge and understanding of Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and the responsibility for reporting concerns
- ensure hygiene routines are consistent with regard to hand washing.

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)