

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY356278
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 April 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Lynne Kathleen Talbot
<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 registered in August 2007. She lives with her husband and two children aged five and eight years. The family has two guinea pigs and one rabbit. Their home is in a village close to Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

The whole ground floor of the house is used for childminding, the first floor is used under supervision. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play. There are shops, schools and pre-schools within an accessible distance. The childminder walks to local schools to collect and take minded children.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time. There are currently six children on roll attending varying part-time hours.

## 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 are learning the importance of hygiene and personal care. Children take responsibility for their own needs, because the childminder acts as a positive role model and offers clear explanations and supportive reminders. This is demonstrated as children wash and dry their hands before eating or after playing with the animals. Children follow routines which maintain hygiene in the home such as removing their shoes when coming indoors and placing them on shelves located by the front door. They know that they should wear their Wellington boots when playing outdoors in wet weather and remove them when coming indoors. This supports their sense of belonging and reinforces regular routines for hygiene.

Children's well-being is promoted as the daily routine supports children's individual needs, and helps them maintain health, through appropriate physically active and resting periods. They have regular access to outdoor play in the well-equipped rear garden. Children walk to and from school each day which gives them opportunities to gain an understanding of their local community. Children are appropriately nourished and encouraged to enjoy a broad range of healthy foods. They enjoy snacks that include yoghurt mixed with dried and fresh fruit which they enjoy seated at the table discussing their day after school. They have opportunities to discuss healthy eating with the childminder and review a 'five-a-day adventure' poster displayed in the dining room. Information is shared with parents and carers through daily exchange of information.

Children's immediate health and safety is protected because the childminder is informed of current health guidelines and requirements of the National Standards, for example through clear sickness procedures. However, a lack of knowledge about communicable diseases potentially prevents appropriate action being taken to protect children's health. Children's health and medical needs are supported due to the childminder's attention to maintaining accurate information and reviewing the care of children with parents. However, no request has been made to parents for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment and this compromises children's welfare.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is consistently promoted and appropriate action taken in the event of illness or accident because the childminder has an organised approach to this area of care and takes steps to prevent accidents and to plan for emergencies. Children follow the emergency escape plan regularly and discuss reasons for safety routines demonstrating clear understanding of keeping themselves, and others, safe.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment, accessing equipment that meets safety standards with sufficient space to explore and develop their full potential. There is a regular informal review of safety within the home to ensure that all risks are minimised. Children are learning to keep themselves safe due to clear explanations and routines. This includes an understanding of safety in the sun, which they can explain at length, describing the wearing of hats, the application of sun cream and the potential hazard of burning including headaches and sore skin.

Children carry out road safety routines each day and are developing a good understanding of why and how to keep themselves safe in the community. They explain why and where they must cross roads and understand the importance of remaining close to the childminder. Children are protected because the childminder understands child protection issues and is able to describe steps that would be required in the event of concern. However, having not attended a childminder training course she does not have full understanding of, or access to, the procedures as required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) consequently children's welfare is not fully protected.

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

The provision is good.

Children are able to develop confidence and self-esteem because the childminder gives them opportunity to talk and values their efforts at all ages. They are encouraged to make links between family life and the care at the childminders, for instance reviewing activities carried out at home and discussing forthcoming events. Children discuss everything they see around them, for example, when handling the stick insects they ask, 'Are they dead? Do they tickle?', and question why they shed their skin. They then explore the similarities between the insects and snakes which they point out also shed their skin. Children enjoy close contact with the pets in the family, gathering dandelions on the way home from school to feed the rabbit and guinea pigs. Children benefit from first hand experiences with the animals around them leading them to extend their understanding and question what they see.

Children explore new concepts in everyday activities and with play materials. For example, they use craft materials freely and discuss how they are designing and producing their art works. Children show high self esteem, which is supported by the childminder, as they plan to put on a 'Show'. They work together independently of the childminder to plan and produce a show where they may all take part. Children show that they can put together a product that has a beginning, a place for everyone, and a climax using an array of musical instruments. They are clearly being supported to develop cooperative play and understand negotiation which will assist them in their ongoing school lives.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Children's care adapts to changes in their schools and subsequent hours of care required according to shift patterns within families. This flexibility is demonstrated by the differing times of collection for the children and the plans made to ensure that they have had time both to play and to have sufficient nourishment before their time for collection by parents or family members. Children are supported because there is a clear verbal exchange of information each day between the childminder and the person collecting each child.

Children show that they understand responsible behaviour and recognise the needs of others, helped by consistent boundaries being maintained by the childminder. Children are helped to understand tolerance for each other because the childminder ensures that children are encouraged to share and understand when others are sad or tired. Children demonstrate that they recognise the feelings of others and value the opinions of others. For instance, they are seen to ask each other if they like their crafts and, after responding that 'it may be spoilt' children recognise that this may hurt another child's feelings and go on to add that they think

'it looks really nice'. They respond to praise and are given frequent opportunities to make choices over their activities becoming efficient at decision making.

Children become aware of the wider society and are learning to take part within a multi-cultural community as they discuss their surroundings and community when out walking. They have opportunities to discuss the wider world through both personal experiences and family backgrounds as well as when reflecting on school topics. This enables them to share views and ask questions about what they see and understand. Children are treated as individuals and the childminder shows clear understanding of obtaining sufficient in-depth information where children may have learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are secure within the surroundings where they develop a sense of trust in the childminder. They feel at ease in this organised environment leading them to confidently initiate play and explore their surroundings. Children are confident and respond to new experiences offered by the childminder. They readily complete their homework with the childminder's support and this demonstrates that they are confident and that parental requests regarding the care are being met. Organisation within the home allows access to all play activities both indoors and outside. Children have independent access to personal care facilities and develop awareness of their personal space and care through example and routines.

The childminder has a basic knowledge and understanding of the Children Act and most associated regulations ensuring that she addresses her responsibilities. She maintains basic documentation in accordance with that outlined within the National Standards and continues to develop agreements shared with parents to effect firm relationships and continue meeting children's needs. She has completed a first aid course as required by the National Standards and this means that children receive appropriate care in the event of accident. However, the childminder has not yet completed the required childminder training course. This means that children are not fully protected as procedures do not have full regard to the National Standards. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children for whom it provides.

### **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 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):

- request permission from parents for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment
- improve knowledge of procedures to prevent the spread of infection or notifiable disease, or in the event of significant injury to minded children
- improve knowledge of child protection issues and procedures in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures to ensure that procedures are able to be put into practice
- complete a local authority approved childminder's pre-registration training course.

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)