

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY359187
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 July 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Patricia King
<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 in 2007. She lives with her three children aged one, four and eight years on the outskirts of the of Leicester. The whole of the childminder's house is used except for the main bedroom on the first floor and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and currently has four children under eight on roll. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children and attends local pre-school groups. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The family pets are a number of rabbits.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

The childminder ensures that children are protected from health risks by implementing effective policies and procedures to safeguard children from infection and cross-contamination. For example, parents are informed that children will not be minded if infectious. Children's health and welfare are promoted by the good systems and clear records kept to take appropriate action in the event of an accident, seek emergency attention and to administer any necessary medication. Appropriate first aid equipment is readily accessible in the home and is taken on outings and the childminder has a current first aid qualification. Children are learning about self-care and personal hygiene because childminder talks to them about the importance of hand washing as she manages their care routines.

Children benefit from daily outside play in the garden, weather permitting. They use outdoor equipment to balance, climb, ride on bikes and cars and play with balls and outdoor games. They are taken to the local parks and pre-school groups to play on other large physical equipment. They relax and sleep according to their needs because the childminder plans her home and routines effectively to offer opportunities for rest and quieter times.

Children are learning about the importance of eating fruit and vegetables daily to be healthy and grow strong. The childminder talks to the children about healthy eating and they are encouraged to try a wide variety of different tastes. Their daily dietary needs, personal choice and preferences are established with parents and the childminder works closely with the parents to ensure that a nutritious, balanced diet is maintained overall. Drinking water and healthy drinks are within easy reach at all times to promote independence and choice.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has arranged her home well to provide a welcoming, secure environment suitable for the care of children. The ground floor is arranged effectively to provide opportunities for active, quiet and social play. Children can access a good range of toys and activities which meet safety standards and are stored within easy reach. The childminder ensures that these comply with current safety standards so that children's safety is well maintained. A good range of safety equipment such as feeding chairs, socket covers and stair gates ensures that children's safety is carefully considered throughout the home. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe, for example, they respond well to simple rules about not running and climbing in the home and respond to the childminders consistent praise and encouragement for safe behaviour. However, they have not practiced the emergency escape plan and there are no agreed procedures for the safe use of the trampoline.

Children's safety and welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's secure understanding of child protection issues in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. The childminder ensures that children are only collected by their parents or named adults by prior written arrangements and children are never left alone with other adults.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder takes care to find out what children can do, their likes and dislikes, and organises the daily routines and activities effectively to ensure that they learn and develop well in her care. This means that children are settled and comfortable in the childminder's home and take part confidently in the routines and activities offered for their care and welfare. Well-planned and resourced indoor and outdoor activities provide appropriate levels of challenge to build confidence and self-esteem. For example, children have the confidence to select a favourite or interesting toy and relish the praise they receive for completing a puzzle or sorting colours and shapes.

Children have good relationships with the childminder and each other and are learning to take turns and share which promotes a harmonious caring environment. The childminder has established systems to observe and record children's progress in their learning and is developing more effective ways to share this information with parents.

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

The provision is good.

Children's care and welfare is thoroughly discussed and agreed with the parents establishing a close working partnership to keep them fully informed and included in the care of their children. This means that the children's individual needs are carefully considered ensuring that they feel comfortable and confident in the childminder's care. The childminder makes herself readily available for daily discussion and actively seeks feedback from the parents. She informs parents that any concerns are taken seriously and has established an appropriate procedure to follow. The childminder shows good understanding of how to manage the situation positively when recognising any individual circumstances such as learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Children are learning to behave well and take responsibility for their own behaviour, for example, by following the agreed, sensible, house rules such as no climbing or jumping on the furniture and have regard for each other's safety. They listen carefully to the childminder and respond positively to her gentle reminders and consistent use of praise and encouragement. Children are learning about the community in which they live because they are taken on regular outings around the local area, for example, to the local parks and the library. Resources have been carefully chosen to increase the children's understanding of the wider world which includes different lifestyles and disability awareness.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare and safety are positively promoted by the range of policies, guidelines and information offered to parents. The childminder ensures that documents and records necessary for the efficient and safe management of the provision are maintained. Children are effectively protected from visitors by the childminder's secure systems, records and procedures. She organises her home and daily routines well to provide positive opportunities for children to learn and develop as they play. Care is taken to establish all the necessary details to ensure that children's individual needs are met. Consequently, children feel secure and settled in her care which means they have confidence to make choices, express their needs and make good progress in their overall development. Parents are kept well informed and included in the care

of their children by daily discussion which means they can contribute to their child's continued development. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

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

Not applicable.

### **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):

- promote safety within the setting by practising the emergency escape procedures with the minded children and establishing safe procedures for the use of the trampoline, which are agreed with the parents.

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)