

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	251925
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 July 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Rebecca Johnson

<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 has been registered since 1991. She lives with her partner and five children aged from five years to 17 years in Warstones, Wolverhampton. The whole of the ground floor is used for minding with additional toilet facilities on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. There is currently one child on roll under eight years who attends on a part-time basis. Children over eight years also attend.

The family has a dog, a tortoise, one rabbit, two guinea pigs and a budgerigar.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual care needs are appropriately met and there are acceptable procedures in place to protect them from illness and infection. Sick or injured children are appropriately cared

for because parents are informed that the childminder cannot care for children if they have a contagious illness. Accident and medication records are in place. However, accident records do not contain the child's full name and medication records are given to parents and the childminder does not retain a copy. Therefore, children's welfare is not fully protected. Children are beginning to learn about their own personal hygiene and how to keep healthy by washing their hands at appropriate times during the day.

The childminder does not provide meals or snacks. However, she does ensure that children are able to access their lunchboxes and drinks appropriately throughout the day.

Children enjoy varied opportunities to experience physical activity and develop their skills. They regularly visit the park where they access activities such as a climbing frame, swings and a slide. This contributes to their health and helps them to develop control of their bodies.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming, clean and safe environment where most risks have been identified and minimised. Children's awareness of safety issues is developed through every day activities such as practising evacuation procedures and learning to cross the road safely.

There is a range of acceptable equipment in place which children are able to use safely and select for themselves. All fire equipment such as smoke alarms are in place and are regularly checked. The premises are secure and there are effective procedures in place for the safe arrival and collection of children. Procedures for outings are clear and simple rules such as not running near water ensure children's safety.

Children's welfare is appropriately safeguarded because the childminder has a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and of Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, confident and interact positively with the childminder, seeking her out to share experiences of their play, for example, when playing dominoes. Children's interest and learning is developed as the childminder asks simple questions to help them think and encourage them to count and name different colours. They are developing independence both by choosing activities they wish to participate in and deciding whether to play indoors or outside. The childminder takes time to find out each child's interests by talking to parents and through discussion with the children.

Children are building positive relationships because the childminder encourages them to share toys with each other. They are able to access a range of activities and resources which include tents and tunnels, a train track, cars, puppets, construction, table top games, musical instruments and role play. The childminders knowledge of children's development and personal preferences ensures that children's individual needs and routines are well met and their enjoyment and learning is fostered and encouraged.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Regular discussions with parents ensure that their individual needs are recognised and met appropriately. However, children's knowledge and understanding of the wider world is not fully promoted as they have limited access to resources and activities which reflect positive images of diversity.

Children respond to clear behaviour management policies and strategies such as reinforcing positive behaviour and clear and consistent boundaries. Strategies are shared with and understood by parents, which ensures consistency between home and minding environments. Methods of behaviour management are appropriate to individual children and children's age and stage of development.

Children's individual needs are appropriately met. Good partnerships with parents mean that children are well settled with a familiar and trusted adult and separate happily from their parents. They are cared for in accordance with their parents wishes and information is shared with parents on a daily basis through verbal discussion.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder does not always demonstrate fully an understanding of the need to inform Ofsted of any significant changes. The childminder has knowledge and experience of working with young children and attends some local short courses to ensure she is up-to-date with new ideas and information.

All documentation which contributes to the children's health, safety and welfare is in place and regularly reviewed. Documentation is safely stored to maintain confidentiality whilst still being easily accessible in an emergency. Overall, children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was judged to be inadequate. She agreed to complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children and ensure that the child protection procedures comply with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), and include procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse alleged to have taken place while the child is in the care of the childminder

The childminder has now completed an appropriate first aid course and child protection training to ensure that children are fully protected in both of these areas.

## **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 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):

- ensure that accident records contain child's full name and that medication records are kept
- develop children's access to resources which portray positive images of diversity
- ensure that Ofsted is always informed of significant incidents such as alterations to premises.

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)