

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY342273
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 May 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Jo Rowley
<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 was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and three children aged six, eleven and fourteen, in Stevenage, Hertfordshire. The whole of ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outdoor play. The family has a dog, two cats, one snake and some tropical fish as pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently caring for two children under five on a part-time basis and four children over five, part-time, after school only. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and is

a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for in a warm home. They are able to participate in the activities offered because the childminder uses her experience of child development to adapt these to a suitable level. The children are well supported by the childminder, promoting their confidence to try out new skills and experiences. Routines are in place for children to follow in order to limit the spread of infection such as regular hand washing and the childminder ensures that children are cared for in a suitably clean environment. The childminder has the required accident records in place. However, there are no written records of medication that has been given to children. This compromises children's health.

Children's dietary needs are understood and they are offered nutritious snacks and meals because the childminder has an understanding of healthy eating. Meals are cooked using fresh ingredients and include a variety such as meat, potatoes, pasta and vegetables. Children's physical development is promoted through their participation in a variety of activities. They are developing control of their bodies and a range of skills through regular opportunities for outdoor activities such as visiting the local parks and using static equipment in the garden.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is generally sound as the childminder has an awareness of risks and takes some steps to minimise these. For example, children are beginning to learn about keeping themselves safe as the childminder talks with them about issues such as road safety, whilst walking to and from school, ensuring that they stay close to her or are secure in a push chair at all times. However, the fire evacuation procedure is not practised therefore, children's safety is potentially affected.

Children independently select activities from a range of toys and equipment, which are rotated regularly to offer more choice and variety to the children. The childminder supervises this choice, ensuring that they are safe and appropriate for the children's ages and stages of development. Children's welfare is generally promoted because the childminder has an understanding of the required child protection documentation, which is in place so correct procedures are followed when reporting concerns. However, there is no system for recording incidents and therefore, children's welfare is potentially affected.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled within the childminder's home, independently choosing toys and resources. They are offered a variety of activities, which helps to promote their development. These include using imaginative toys such as construction and play dough. Children are able to enjoy the garden as the childminder provides a range of toys and equipment such as bats and balls, which are suitable for the ages and stages of children being cared for. Children enjoy a range of art and craft activities which includes gluing and sticking different materials and they have a range of books available to them which they can access independently or with the childminder.

The childminder is able to use her knowledge of child development to adapt activities to suit individual children. She is able to ask relevant questions in order to make children think further, for example, whilst playing with the different modes of transport the childminder asks the children what colours the cars are, how they get too and from their holidays and what noises the vehicles make. One child then talks about going on an aeroplane for their holiday and another shares, with the childminder, which one is their favourite car. The childminder ensures that she participates in the children's play, encouraging their sharing skills and developing their language. The childminder has an understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and she is able to use this framework when planning activities for younger children.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to feel valued and respected because the childminder ensures that she is aware of their individual needs and beliefs. Therefore, she is able to meet the children's needs consistently. Children are always treated as individuals, they are encouraged to respect each other and work together regardless of their race, gender or disability. They play well together and are learning about sharing and turn-taking, they are encouraged to take responsibility for this and are developing their understanding of each other's needs, their behaviour is good. Children have a clear understanding of the ground rules, which are suitably applied by the childminder. For example, they are gently encouraged to be kind to each other as well as respecting the family dog. The childminder has a behaviour management statement, which she encourages children and parents to follow. This promotes appropriate behaviour.

Children are encouraged to respect other cultures and ways of life and are able to access resources such as books, dressing up clothes and dolls. This helps to increase their understanding of this area. Children benefit from the way in which the childminder works in partnership with parents, ensuring that they are fully informed of their children's progress and activities through regularly communicating with them. The childminder has devised a set of written policies and procedures which she shares with parents and in the event of parents having a complaint, they are aware of the procedure to follow.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall children's needs are met. Resources are suitably organised and children are able to determine their own play through choice and self-selection. The individual needs of children are met as the childminder ensures that she has all necessary information about the minded children and that she clearly understands this, although not all paperwork is in place. Children's emotional and physical development are both promoted through the childminder's organisation of her daily work. She makes sure that there is time to offer children a range of activities and play opportunities both inside and outside the home, whilst ensuring that she is able to meet her commitments in terms of collecting children at the correct time. The childminder organises her work to ensure that children are supervised at all times and confidentially shares documentation with parents. However, child record forms are not completed in full and the daily register does not record the actual times of children's attendance, potentially affecting their safety and well-being. The childminder's registration certificate is displayed, therefore, parents are able to clearly see her conditions of registration.

## **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):

- ensure that all medication given is recorded in full
- ensure that the emergency escape plan is practised
- ensure that incidents are recorded and kept confidential
- ensure that the register is completed in full and that actual times of children's attendance is recorded.
- ensure that the child record forms are completed in full for each child

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)