

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | EY339554       |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 21 April 2008  |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Valerie Thomas |

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| <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 2006 and occasionally works with an assistant. She lives with her partner and three children aged nine, five and two years in Stoke-on-Trent. The whole ground floor and toilet facilities on the first floor of the childminder's house are used for childminding.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five years and two over five years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a budgerigar.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Health and hygiene for children is promoted appropriately by the childminder. Children learn that they need to wash their hands when they use the potty and this is also extended to washing hands before and after meals. Nappy changing procedures help to prevent cross-contamination as the childminder wipes the mat before and after use and wears protective gloves when

changing children. Sick and infectious children are excluded and there is a written policy with a list of incubation and exclusion periods displayed in the kitchen. This helps children to remain healthy.

There are clear procedures in place for recording accidents with good detail included. All medication administered to children is recorded and parents give written consent as part of the contract when the child first starts. Parents verbally inform the childminder of the medication to be given on a daily basis and sign to acknowledge the entry when they collect their child. However, written consent is not obtained for each specific medicine to be given on the day. This does not fully promote children's welfare.

Generally, a healthy and nutritional diet is promoted. Fruit is given for snacks and children are encouraged to eat vegetables with their main meal. Meals such as homemade shepherd's pie, chilli and pasta are provided. However, some children prefer to eat chicken nuggets, sausages and fish fingers which can have a high salt and fat content. The childminder is aware of this and is trying to ensure a more healthy option by making her own chicken nuggets and potato wedges. Children have free access to drinks although this is mainly juice which when drunk between meals has the potential to cause a negative effect on teeth.

Children have daily opportunities to be outside in the fresh air and develop their physical skills. They walk to and from school each day, visit local parks and walk to a nearby brook. Outings to a nearby activity centre and weekly visits to playgroup enable children to use a varied range of equipment to develop their physical skills. Inside, children have lots of fun as they play on the sit-and-ride toys in the lounge and climb in and out of the play tent. This encourages children to develop a healthy lifestyle.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Areas used by children are maintained well and provide a welcoming environment. There is suitable space for children to take part in activities and move around freely. There is a good range of toys available to promote children's development and they are stored in boxes in the corner of the room. The childminder sets a varied range out for children to play with and is very aware when they need something else to interest them. Children also choose what they want to have out from the examples given by the childminder. There is suitable equipment to meet the needs of young children such as a high chair, buggies and safety straps for walking. However, there is no furniture for children to sit down and eat their meals at. This does not enable children to be comfortable while eating or develop their social skills of sitting appropriately at a table together.

Safety is promoted well in the setting. Smoke alarms are available on both floors and carbon monoxide detectors are present. All cleaning materials are stored in kitchen cupboards which have safety catches fitted. Clear boundaries are set to help children learn about keeping safe. Young children learn that they must keep their feet on the floor when playing on the sit-and-ride toys and they know that they need to blow on their food when it is hot so that they can eat it. This helps to keep children safe.

The childminder has undertaken child protection training and has a good knowledge of signs and symptoms that may indicate child abuse and has all relevant guidance and documents. She fully understands the correct reporting procedures and has a written child protection policy to inform parents. This helps to safeguard children.

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

The provision is good.

Children experience a wide range of activities which contributes to their development both inside and outside the home. Each child has a folder with examples of their drawings and paintings and records are kept of their progress with targets set for future learning and development. Discussion with the childminder demonstrates how children take part in baking activities. Photographs show them having fun at an open day for the fire station where they are trying helmets on and holding the hose.

Children show much enjoyment as they play with the dolls and pushchairs, taking their babies for a walk and making them some dinner. The childminder extends their learning well as they play with the blocks. Children confidently name the colours of the blocks and they are encouraged to make small sets of the same colour with lots of interaction from the childminder. They try to count how many blocks are in their tower and have great fun, laughing as they topple over. The routine of the day includes a session for stories and singing after lunch which helps to promote children's language and further develops their mathematical skills as they join in number songs.

Children's independence is very much encouraged. They pull their own clothes up after they use the potty and tidy away the toys before they have something else out to play with. Children gain good levels of self-esteem and confidence through the effective use of praise by the childminder. They enjoy receiving a sticker for helping to tidy away and know that if they are good during the day they will have a sticker when they go home. Consequently, children are happy and have a fun time.

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

The provision is good.

Much attention is given to helping children feel good about themselves and to understand the effect their behaviour has on others. Young children learn that they need to be kind to each other and not push anyone and this leads to them showing a caring nature as they help to wipe their playmate's face. The childminder acts as a positive role model and encourages children to share during play, ensuring their social skills are developing well.

There is a suitable range of resources to promote positive images of diversity and various activities take place to enhance children's understanding further. There are various story books and pictures for children to colour and activities for children to taste food from different countries. This helps to raise children's awareness and develop positive attitudes to others. Children are involved in the local community through attending toddler groups and going to the local town centre. There are also trips to places of interest such as Blackpool, Southport and Chester Zoo which develops children's knowledge of the wider world. There are no children currently attending with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. However, the childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of the importance of working in partnership with parents and promoting inclusion to ensure individual needs are met.

Partnerships with parents are developed through the organised procedures implemented. The wide range of policies is shared and parents sign to say they have read and understood them. There is a written complaints policy displayed in the lounge for parents to view with details of the regulator included. Individual needs of children are discussed with parents at initial visits

and recorded. Diaries and daily discussion are used to keep them informed of their child's well-being and this helps to ensure children's needs are met.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a current first aid certificate and attends regular training to keep updated and extend her knowledge of childcare issues. For example, this includes 'Promoting Positive Behaviour', 'Risk Assessment' and 'Allergy and Anaphylaxis'. In addition the childminder has obtained a level 2 qualification in childcare. This contributes to the quality of care given to children. The childminder demonstrates a good knowledge of the National Standards with a wide range of written policies in place to fully inform parents. All required documentation is in place for attendance and children's details. This promotes the well-being of children.

Children are happy and enjoy their time in the setting. They have good relationships with each other and their social skills are developing well through the good behaviour management methods implemented by the childminder. Children receive positive interaction and develop good levels of self-esteem through the constant praise they receive. Their learning is extended well through a wide range of activities and good support is given by the childminder. 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):

- provide suitable furniture for mealtimes
- ensure drinks for children promote their good health
- ensure written consent is obtained to administer specific medication.

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)