

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY348500
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 April 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Anne Archer
<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 husband and two children aged three years and one year in Rushden in East Northamptonshire. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time when working alone and up to six children at any one time when working with an assistant. She is currently caring for several children on a part-time basis. The childminder collects from a local school and pre-school. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and has a Level 3 qualification in childcare.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, well-ventilated home where children learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care to help maintain their health. For example, children wash their hands when they arrive home from school and before eating. Children have their own towel to

avoid the risk of cross-infection. The childminder has attended basic food hygiene course and food preparation and eating surfaces are cleaned before and after use and the childminder follows clear procedures to maintain good levels of hygiene in the kitchen. Children welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a paediatric first aid certificate and feels confident to administer first aid when necessary. She also has written consents to seek emergency advice or treatment and to administer medication. Clear procedures are in place in the event of a child becoming ill while in her care.

Children enjoy physical activities which contribute to their good health. They have regular opportunities to play outside in the childminder's well-equipped garden and often visit a nearby park. Children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs. They are provided with nutritious meals and snacks taking account of their individual dietary needs, likes and parental wishes. The childminder provides parents with details of her menus so that they know what their children are eating. Meals are taken at the dining table and are a social occasion for all to enjoy. Children are encouraged to take regular drinks to ensure they remain hydrated.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, child-friendly home where the childminder is very aware of children's developing abilities and safety equipment is used appropriately. The childminder has risk assessed her home and garden to ensure potential risks and hazards are identified and action taken to minimise them. Children learn about how to stay safe near roads on the walk to and from school and when out in the car all children use the required seat or booster cushion. The childminder's garden is secure and she checks it before use to ensure it is safe for children to use.

Children are well protected from possible abuse or neglect because the childminder has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities towards the children in her care. She is familiar with local recording and referral procedures and would not hesitate to take action if she had concerns about a child. Children of all ages have use of an expanding range of toys and equipment for both indoor and outside play which are regularly checked to ensure they remain suitable and safe for use.

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

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's care. They are able to choose from a good range of toys and resources building on their interests as well as participating in more structured, adult-led activities. Children enjoy outdoor play on the recently acquired see-saw and in the play house where 'coffee and cake' are for sale in the 'café'. They also enjoy listening to stories such as one about the new baby, playing with hammer and nails at the work bench and having a new hairstyle at the hairdresser's.

Children attend a weekly childminding group with the childminder where they are able to socialise with other minded children and try out different activities. Children experience warm relationships with the childminder which promotes their confidence and self esteem.

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

The provision is good.

Children show confidence in their relationship with the childminder because she values and respects them as individuals which promotes a sense of well-being and aids their emotional development. Children learn about the world around them from playing with the good range of toys and resources, listening to stories and from discussions with the childminder. Children are polite, behave well and respond very well to the childminder's timely behaviour management strategies which take account of each child's level of understanding and maturity.

Children's care and welfare are promoted because the childminder develops positive working relationships with parents. Each new parent receives a welcome pack which provides details of the childminder's service and policies and procedures including what to do if they are unhappy about an aspect of care. Clear settling-in procedures set in consultation with parents and daily exchanges of information ensure that children settle well and parents can confidently leave their children in the childminder's care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Resources, space and routines are very effectively organised to ensure children are comfortable and content in the childminder's care. Children have opportunities for free-choice play as well as more structured, adult-led activities in the safe and secure environment. The childminder often works with an assistant to enable her to care for more children under the age of five. She has chosen to use the ground floor rooms of her home which provide sufficient space for minded children to play and rest while ensuring some privacy for her family.

On the whole children's care and welfare are safeguarded by clear documentation and record keeping. However, the attendance register includes contracted times rather than the actual times that children are in the childminder's care. The childminder's policies and procedures are shared with parents at the introductory meeting, records are stored securely and confidentiality is maintained. The childminder uses her childcare qualification and past nursery experience well to provide children with a positive care experience. 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 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):

- ensure that the attendance register records the actual times that children are cared for.

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)