



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY302703
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 January 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Rachel Wyatt

<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.
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### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 13 and 20 in Droitwich, Worcestershire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. Children are collected from a local primary school. They can be taken to a local parent and toddler group and on other outings such as visits to a nearby park, activity centres or to the library.

The childminder is registered to care for 6 children under the age of 8 years at any one time. There are currently 5 children on roll, all of whom attend on a part-time

basis. The childminder supports children with special educational needs.

The childminder has two pet rabbits.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and local childminding support group.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very clean and comfortable home. They use well-maintained toys and equipment. Play materials, such as sand are stored correctly, as both sand and water trays are covered when not in use.

Children understand the importance of good personal hygiene. They learn from routines and the childminder's good example when they need to wash their hands, such as after outside play, using the toilet or handling animals and before eating. Children enjoy hand washing routines, talking about the pleasant smelling soap they use. They appreciate having their own flannel and towel which are cleaned regularly. Children visit the toilet independently, the childminder discreetly assisting younger or less confident children. Children also learn about animal health and care. They help to look after the family's two pet rabbits. Young children soon become adept at fixing water bottles to the sides of the rabbits' runs.

A good balance of quieter activities and routines throughout the day mean that babies and children are able to rest and relax. A suitable cot is located in a quiet area so that babies or toddlers can sleep peacefully. Children also talk about the need for rest as part of a healthy lifestyle whilst they play with dolls, settling them down in a realistic cot with bedding.

Children benefit from plenty of exercise, going outside in all weathers. They play in the garden, visiting the rabbits and using different physical play equipment, such as wheeled toys. They enjoy gardening, including growing beans and sunflowers. On walks and outings children engage in energetic play but also collect items for collage and painting activities. Babies' growing mobility is encouraged during good opportunities for lying on the floor where they can kick, roll over and crawl.

Children's general health and well-being is fostered. The childminder ensures she knows about children's allergies and health and dietary needs. From the outset parents are aware that children will have supervised access to the rabbits. The childminder's sick children procedures, which are discussed with parents, help to reduce the risk of cross infection. Children contribute to this as they learn to use tissues to wipe their noses and to put a hand across their mouth when coughing.

If children become unwell parents are promptly advised and exclusion periods discussed. In the event of a medical emergency the childminder has a relevant first aid qualification and parents' contact numbers are ready to hand. However, parents

have not been asked to give their written consent to the childminder seeking emergency medical advice and treatment, consequently compromising children's welfare in such situations.

Children are well nourished. They enjoy healthy meals and snacks with plenty of fruit and vegetables and a choice of milk, water or squash to drink. Food is attractively presented and in manageable portions. Children know about aspects of a healthy diet. They enjoy cooking and food preparation, for example, making fruit salad and then creating their own pictures of this. They discuss and draw pictures of other fruit, vegetables and meals that are good to eat.

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

The provision is good.

Children's safety is given priority by the childminder. They can safely explore their surroundings. The indoor premises and garden are secure. Strategically placed equipment, such as safety gates and electrical socket covers, plus secure storage of hazardous materials help to minimise risks. Babies and children use good quality age-appropriate equipment and toys that are well maintained.

Children are supervised carefully but without inhibiting their free play or understanding of safety issues. Older children know what triggers an emergency evacuation and where to go. From an early age children learn basic road safety rules, such as holding hands and walking beside or just in front of the childminder. They are also introduced to issues relating to their own personal well-being in ways they can understand. They know they should stay by the childminder when out and not run out to meet callers. Children are safeguarded in other ways. Robust collection arrangements mean they only go home with people nominated by their parents and whom the childminder can identify. Her sound awareness of child protection procedures means she is alert to any issues affecting children's welfare.

The childminder ensures her health and safety procedures are discussed with parents so they are aware of her strategies for keeping children safe and protected. These include her contingency arrangements in the event of an evacuation, or if something untoward happens to her whilst looking after children. These measures ensure children remain with someone who will notify parents promptly, and whom parents have met.

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

The provision is good.

Babies and children enjoy a range of inviting activities. There is a strong emphasis on children being creative and taking the lead in activities. The childminder discreetly joins in children's play but to support and encourage. As a result children are settled and absorbed in what they do. They enjoy listening and dancing to music, recording their singing and trying out different instruments. They engage in domestic role play, looking after dolls, going shopping and making meals. They equally enjoy real

cooking, mixing ingredients, making fruit salads and then drawing pictures of what they like to eat or have made. Children write, draw and paint creatively.

Babies explore and play with rewarding toys and are effectively included in activities. Babies social skills are well fostered through opportunities to mix with children of different ages at the childminder's home and also through meeting other young children at toddler groups. Older minded children are often helpful and caring towards their younger peers.

Children's speech and language is effectively promoted whilst they and the childminder chat during play and routines. Children listen well and speak with growing clarity due to the childminder's good eye contact and sensitive use of reiteration. Children enjoy songs, rhymes and stories. They talk about the features of pictures and stories. Access to suitable books and opportunities to read to younger peers help school-age children to be confident readers. Children's understanding of numbers, shape and colour is fostered well during play with puzzles and games such as dominoes and picture lotto. Children of differing ages and abilities can enjoy such games as they can be adapted to suit their level of understanding. The childminder is also able to adapt her approach well to ensure younger children can join in along with older peers.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs and characteristics are positively acknowledged. Their self-esteem is promoted well as their particular interests or aptitudes, for example playing a musical instrument, are encouraged. Children also take pride in their artwork, some of which is displayed in the setting. They appreciate seeing themselves and their activities in photographs.

Any concerns about a child's development are sensitively discussed with parents. The childminder is confident to support children's individual special needs within the setting. Toys and games are also provided that are adaptable and reflect children's differing levels of skill. Children's awareness of diversity is fostered especially through looking at books, discussions and enjoyable domestic play with dolls and play food.

Children are well behaved. The childminder is sensitive to children's different personalities so she sensitively involves herself in their play, fostering good interactions and cooperation. During board games children take turns and in shared activities, such as cooking, children help each other as they mix ingredients. Children are helpful and caring. They competently tidy up toys, help younger peers with tasks and help to entertain the babies. When children misbehave the childminder ensures they listen to and understand her age-appropriate explanations.

Good relationships are fostered with parents and carers. Parents are generally well informed about the childminder's provision for their children's care and play. She discusses her health, hygiene and safety procedures with parents. However, they have not yet been made aware of changes to the childminder's responsibility with

regard to managing complaints. Written agreements are easy to understand with most relevant consents in place. Parents are given regular verbal feedback on their children's activities and routines. They enjoy receiving photographs of their children's activities and examples of their work.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Babies and children benefit from the relaxed atmosphere in the setting where the focus is on them. Unhurried routines and playtimes promote children's growing confidence and independence. Toys and activities are set out ready and offer children rewarding opportunities for self-expression through role play, dressing up, music and art and crafts. Resources are well organised to stimulate children's imagination and creativity, and toys and games are included which reflect children's individual interests and abilities.

Children are effectively supported by the childminder who has a relaxed easy relationship with them. She draws on her prior experience in child care to ensure they are well cared for and good relationships fostered with parents. However, she does not consistently keep up to date with current child care issues. This means that parents are not fully aware of their rights in relation to changes to the National Standards affecting the management and recording of complaints. With regard to the provision for children aged under three the childminder is not familiar with the 'Birth to three matters' framework and how this is relevant to her already caring and child-centred provision for this age group.

In general documentation supports the care of children. The childminder ensures she has relevant personal, health and medical details for children and their parents' contact details. Appropriate formats are in place for recording children's medication and any accidents or incidents. However, some omissions to documentation impact on children's prompt treatment in a medical emergency and parents' access to her registration certificate. In other respects informal arrangements for sharing information with parents means they have an understanding of the childminder's health, safety and care procedures. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children attending.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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:

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## 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):

- improve documentation so that parents provide written consent to seeking emergency medical advice and treatment, the complaints record is in the required format, and the certificate of registration is displayed during working hours
- update procedures to reflect changes to the National Standards and improve outcomes for children from birth to three by using an approach in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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