



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	223383
<b>Inspection date</b>	23 September 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Deborah Ball

<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 1989. She lives with her husband and two adult children on the outskirts of the city of Hereford. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently caring for four children on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and takes children on visits and outings. The family has no pets.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children participate in a variety of physical activities, which contribute to their good health and provide opportunities to develop and practise physical skills, for example, general garden play and regular visits to the local park. Daily outdoor play is a feature of the provision and the childminder's garden is designed to accommodate the children's needs to explore and play.

Children benefit from the childminder's good hygiene practice and she encourages and supports them in developing self-help skills with regard to personal hygiene. Age appropriate explanations and discussion ensure that the children are learning the importance of regular hygiene routines, such as hand washing.

The childminder does not presently provide meals for the children, however their welfare is safeguarded through her appropriate hygiene procedures when handling the children's packed meals. The children's independence is fostered as they access drinks freely.

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

The provision is good.

Children are able to move safely and independently around the setting, which is clean and well maintained. Children benefit from opportunities to explore other environments and the childminder has all the required procedures and documentation in place.

The childminder has a high level of awareness of all risks to children's safety and has taken extensive precautions to keep the physical environment safe and secure. Children are actively learning to keep themselves safe through participation in safety routines, such as road crossing drills.

Children enjoy free access to an extensive range of toys and equipment; these are in good condition, are age appropriate and help to promote learning in all areas.

Children's protection from abuse and neglect is promoted through the childminder's detailed knowledge of child protection procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children are involved in a broad range of exciting and challenging activities and experiences, which are planned to help them make progress in all areas of development. Spontaneous events and children's individual interests are effectively used by the childminder to extend their learning experience. Children are given

frequent opportunities to explore and investigate and are learning to make choices as they access toys and equipment freely and independently.

Children benefit from regular learning and play opportunities outside the home, which further develop their social skills. Their language development is promoted throughout the day as they are given frequent opportunities to discuss, negotiate and respond to questions asked of them by the childminder. Children's confidence in their language skills is enhanced by the childminder's positive response to their comments.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's self-esteem is promoted as they are praised frequently for effort and achievement and they enjoy a warm relationship with the childminder. Their sense of security is promoted through consistency of care and positive behaviour management strategies.

Children benefit from being cared for as individuals with their particular needs considered and accommodated. They are able to access some resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and to increase their understanding of others. However, the range is not well balanced with gender and disability presently under represented.

Children's sense of security is fostered through a strong partnership with parents, which promotes continuity of care and regular sharing of information.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care is greatly enhanced by the way the childminder organises her home and the activities and resources she provides. Her home is well equipped and carefully organised to allow children plenty of space to play and rest, while the daily routine allows children to develop independence, enjoy a variety of experiences and daily outside play.

Children benefit from the childminder's experience and all required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and regularly reviewed.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who are cared for.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to maintain a signed record of all accidents involving children. The childminder has reviewed accident recording procedures and parents sign to acknowledge the entry. A record of medicines

administered to children is appropriately maintained. As a result, the children's welfare and safety is now safeguarded.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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):

- increase children's understanding of others by developing the range of resources to promote positive images, especially of gender and disability.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)