



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	162302
<b>Inspection date</b>	04 October 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Cheryl Langley

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

The childminder registered in August 2001. She lives with her husband and 5 year old child in a house in Ware. All of the property is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. She is registered to care for a maximum of 2 children at any one time and she is currently minding 3 children. The family has a pet rabbit and goldfish.

The childminder attends the local toddler group on a regular basis.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a range of activities which contribute to their health. They play in the garden and visit local parks regularly to benefit from the fresh air. Children experience a variety of physical activities using both large and small equipment. For example, they have fun on the climbing frames, slides and swings or riding scooters and bicycles. Younger children enjoy swimming with the childminder. In the house they develop their physical skills through arts and craft activities, lacing buttons or completing puzzles.

Children learn the importance of hygiene and personal care. They are cared for in a clean home where they understand the need for regular cleaning routines to keep them safe and healthy. Children have a clear understanding of why they must wash their hands after playing in the garden, stroking the pet rabbit or using the toilet. Children learn about keeping their bodies healthy through discussion and sharing story and information books.

Children are beginning to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They know which type of food is good to eat. Children have access to water or sugar-free fruit juice throughout the day and eat fresh fruit and vegetables. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents. She works with them closely to ensure the children's dietary needs are met.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe environment. They move around safely, freely and independently and adhere to house rules to keep them free from harm. Children know to tidy toys from the floor so they do not fall and hurt themselves or others. The childminder helps children understand how to keep themselves safe inside and outside of the home through discussion and leading by example. They learn to be aware of the dangers of water and practise codes for crossing the road safely.

There is a range of safe, developmentally appropriate resources placed around the room for easy access. This enables the children to independently select their play and activities safely. The childminder has the required procedures in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. She has a clear understanding of child protection issues but the required documentation to meet the National Standards is not in place.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a broad variety of exciting play and activities which are child-led or

planned and organised by the childminder. They receive adult guidance to give them extra support if needed but their independence is promoted as much as possible. The childminder sets them challenges along with a range of stimulating play to aid their development.

They benefit from a range of activities which help develop their knowledge and skills. For example, children begin to recognise different colours through painting activities and picking out toys. They use magnetic numbers to practise counting and adding. Sharing books helps to develop their language and reading. Activity games enhance their matching and sequencing or problem solving skills. They learn mathematical language when they weigh ingredients for cooking. Access to toys and equipment for differing abilities encourages the children's progress. They become confident and adept at cutting with scissors, finishing puzzles and jigsaws and using different size pens and pencils for drawing. Helping the childminder care for the family's pet rabbit, completing the daily weather chart and growing sunflowers teaches them about the natural environment. Regular use of creative materials such as paint, play dough, papier mache and glueing, encourages the children to represent their ideas in a variety of ways. They create pig money boxes to take home or decorate picture frames to give as birthday gifts. They have a number of opportunities to express their feelings and experiences through imaginative play with dressing up clothes, role play and home toys.

Their confidence and self-esteem is developed with frequent praise and encouragement which is given at appropriate times. Children's sense of belonging is promoted by the childminder who knows them well and values their achievements which she shares with parents. They make positive relationships, finding new friends on outings and at the different activity centres used.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has some meaningful resources to promote a positive view of the wider world. Children enjoy books, dolls, dressing up and celebrating traditional festivals. Children are valued and respected. Their individual needs are met as they follow their daily routine which is discussed with parents. Children behave well. They understand right and wrong through consistent boundaries, praise and the age-appropriate methods used by the childminder to manage behaviour. Children share, take turns and are polite, remembering to say please and thank you. The childminder provides opportunities for the children to socialise which helps them make positive relationships with others. Realistic challenges are set by the childminder to help the children develop. This promotes their confidence and self-esteem. They feel relaxed and secure and able to make independent choices about what they want to do.

Children benefit from a strong partnership between the childminder and parents who exchange information frequently. They have daily discussions and review contracts, policies and procedures regularly. This helps provide consistency in the children's care and keep parents informed of how their child's needs are being met.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children's needs are met through effective organisation and regular communication with parents. Space and equipment is prepared so that children can access resources easily which enables them to make choices about their play. A balance of child-led activities and organised play ensure children have a range of different enjoyable experiences whilst they are with the childminder. They benefit from routines which make them feel secure and relaxed. Children play, eat, sleep and rest as they need to.

Documentation is stored securely and information shared appropriately with parents. All of the required procedures are in place to help keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare. Children benefit from the childminder's knowledge which she continues to update with relevant training. She has attended training in child protection and holds a current first aid qualification. Overall, the needs of all the children who attend are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to extend the range of resources and activities to meet the developmental needs of children and to promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

The childminder has various resources to meet the developmental needs of the children, for example, dressing up clothes, a shop, small world people, dolls, buggies, a kitchen and large play equipment for the garden. There are some books, dolls, play figures and activities to celebrate traditional festivals which helps to promote positive images of difference and makes children aware of the wider community.

## **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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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<b>WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?</b>
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### **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):

- obtain a copy of the Area Child Protection Committee procedures and Government booklet 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused-summary' to ensure any child protection concerns are dealt with in accordance with the National Standards.

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)