



Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** 224274  
**Inspection date** 12 January 2006  
**Inspector** Carol Johnson

**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** 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 has been registered since 2000. She lives in Coventry with her husband, two adult children and a further two children aged fifteen and fourteen. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for minding purposes, along with the upstairs bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children when working alone and eight children, when working with an assistant. She currently minds three children full-time, together with a further three children who attend on a part-time

basis. The family has a dog and a rabbit.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment. They stay healthy because the childminder takes effective steps to prevent the spread of infection. She encourages and follows good hygiene practices. For example, food is stored appropriately, all surfaces are regularly cleaned and children are provided with liquid soap and individual hand towels. Children are learning about personal hygiene through their daily routines. They wash their hands before mealtimes and after visiting the toilet, touching pets and playing outside. They also clean their teeth after meals. Hygiene routines in relation to pets are suitable. The childminder takes clear measures to ensure that children's best interests are served should they become ill or have an accident. Both the childminder and her assistant have attended first aid training. Well stocked first aid supplies are maintained and the childminder ensures that parents are clear with regards to her sickness policy.

Children are well nourished as they are provided with a range of healthy and nutritious meals. Most food is provided by parents. Consequently, meals are in accordance with their wishes and children's individual dietary requirements. However, the childminder discusses the content with parents to ensure that children get a healthy and balanced diet. Children occasionally visit local restaurants and they eat their lunch at preschool groups once or twice a week. This encourages children to develop social skills and learn good table manners. Children are learning about the benefits of a healthy diet through planned activities and discussions with the childminder.

Children take part in a wide selection of activities that contribute to their physical development. For example, they use wheeled toys, slides and a climbing frame at the childminder's home to help them develop control and co-ordination. They go out for regular walks and attend physical play sessions at local community groups. Children are able to rest and sleep according to their individual requirements because daily routines are flexibly organised to suit children's needs and the childminder takes into account parental wishes.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure and generally safe indoor and outdoor environment. Areas used for childminding purposes are welcoming, spacious and well organised. Equipment and resources are safely stored and there is plenty of room for children to rest and play. The childminder has assessed and minimised most potential risks to the children in her care. Generally, good safety and security precautions are in place. For example: toys and equipment are regularly checked;

safety catches are fitted to low-level cupboards in the kitchen; radiators are covered and gates are secured. However, children's safety is at potential risk from several plug sockets that are uncovered in the lounge.

The childminder takes suitable steps to protect children's safety on outings and children are learning to keep themselves safe through discussion and following safe practices. They learn about road safety, whilst out-and-about in the local environment and they are frequently reminded of safety rules within the home, for example, not running or throwing toys as they or others might get hurt. Children are well protected from the dangers of fire because safety equipment is appropriately maintained and the childminder has devised clear emergency evacuation procedures. She shares and practises these with her assistant and the children. Consequently, everyone would be aware of what they should do should a real emergency situation arise.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder and her assistant demonstrate a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and procedures. They are well aware of their roles and responsibilities in ensuring that children are protected from abuse. Children are only released into the care of known individuals and they are never left unsupervised with persons who have not been suitably vetted, for example, workmen or visitors.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They respond well to known routines and have gained independence through play and the ability to freely and safely access good quality resources. Children are provided with a wide range of planned activities and everyday experiences that help to promote their learning in all areas of development. For example, they take part in craft activities, go on outings, dance, sing, share books and engage in imaginary play. They also visit a variety of community groups where they develop social skills and have the opportunity to mix with other adults and children. Children are interested in their play and the range of resources and activities offered.

The childminder has attended a variety of training to enhance her knowledge of how to effectively provide children with suitable activities to extend their learning. As a result children are challenged appropriately and activities reflect their needs and interests. Children's achievements are recorded and their progress monitored. The childminder informally observes minded children and uses this information effectively to plan for their next steps in learning. Recorded information is shared with parents and as a result they are encouraged to be involved in their child's learning and to carry on with activities at home.

Children have good relationships with the childminder and her assistant and therefore are settled and confident to explore and initiate their own play. They are at ease to go to them for comfort and support. Children are confident. They chat and are keen to share experiences and the childminder asks questions and listens to what they have to say. Therefore, children's learning is being extended and reinforced, and their self-esteem is increased as their contributions are acknowledged and valued.

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

The provision is good.

All children are valued and receive individual care according to their needs. The childminder has some experience of caring for children with special needs and would liaise with parents and other professionals to meet any special requirements. Children have equal access to a good range of resources and activities that help them to develop a positive attitude towards others and gain a sense of belonging. For example, they can play with a wide selection of puzzles, books, dolls and small world figures. Posters displayed around the setting show positive images of diversity in society. Children learn about the wider community during both planned and spontaneous discussions and activities. They take part in activities based around religious and cultural festivals and they are encouraged to try food from around the world.

Children learn to behave because the childminder effectively uses a range of age-appropriate positive strategies to manage their behaviour, for example, time out, discussion, distraction and praise. Good behaviour and effort is valued and it is rewarded with frequent praise and encouragement. Children's achievements are shared with parents and many are recorded on paper leaves that are then added to a display in the playroom. For example, children can add a leaf to the display that acknowledges their independence skills and occasions where they have shared toys or been considerate towards others. Consequently, children are motivated to co-operate, achieve and have increased levels of self-esteem.

Clear information exchanged and regular discussion with parents actively enhances the welfare and care of the children. The childminder has developed a set of well written policies and procedures that she shares with parents. These contribute to a good working partnership where children receive consistency of care and parents are given clear guidance as to the level of care and service they and their children can expect.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease in the well organised, homely environment. They are comfortable in the childminder's care and are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. They have plenty of space to provide for their needs and are able to move freely and safely. They have access to a wide range of resources that are effectively stored to encourage independence and choice.

Parents and children benefit from the childminders experience and professional attitude and commitment to training that is reflected in the level of care and service she provides. Their welfare is enhanced because the childminder has attended a wide selection of child care related training courses and has achieved level three quality assurance status. Her assistant holds a recognised early year's qualification and has also attended additional training, including first aid and food hygiene. Children receive a good level of supervision and the childminder offers a flexible

service to meet the needs of children and their families.

Parents are well informed about policies and procedures, which contribute to the smooth running of the setting and promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Documentation to ensure the safe and effective management of the setting is well organised and appropriately maintained. Overall, the provision meet the needs of the children who attend.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that a signed record is maintained of children's existing injuries. Children's welfare has now been improved as relevant documentation and procedures are now in place.

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

Since April 2004 Ofsted has received one complaint relating to National Standard 2 (organisation). In May 2005 Ofsted received information that the childminder was leaving too many minded children in the sole care of her assistant. Ofsted investigated by inspection and there were no concerns regarding the number of children being left in sole charge of the assistant. However, Ofsted set 2 actions requiring that written parental consent is given for the use of the assistant to provide sole care and to ensure that daily attendances records include children's actual arrival and departure times. The provider remains qualified for 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:

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 exposed plug sockets are made safe or inaccessible.

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)