



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	504765
<b>Inspection date</b>	25 January 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Jan Burnet

<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 1998. She lives with her husband and two children aged 11 and 14 years in a residential area of Coventry, approximately 2 miles east of the city centre. The family lounge, conservatory and a back bedroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family does not have any pets.

The childminder is able to care for a maximum of 6 children under 8 years at any one time and is currently caring for 2 children under 5 years and 3 school aged children, 2 under 8 and 1 over 8 years. She is able to walk to a local school and playgroups to

take and collect children and attends local parent and toddler groups.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are aware of good practice with regard to hand washing and are well protected because the childminder provides anti-bacterial liquid soap. Standards of hygiene are good with thorough routines and preventative measures in place to ensure minimal risk to children. Parents are aware that their child should not attend if he or she has a contagious illness or sickness and diarrhoea and that they will be contacted if the child becomes ill. Children's best interests are served in case of accident because the childminder has held an in-date first aid certificate since 1989.

Children's dietary needs are known by the childminder even though parents provide a packed lunch. The childminder ensures that food is stored in a fridge operating at the correct temperature so that there is no risk to children from unsafe food. Children's emotional well-being is assured because the childminder builds good relationships with parents and children so that children feel happy and secure in her home. Children are developing physical skills and confidence using equipment at the park, at groups and at home.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play, eat and sleep in satisfactorily safe premises. They play in the family lounge and adjacent conservatory. Storage is organised to encourage children's independence because they are able to choose and select resources. Toys, activities and equipment are safe, clean and in a good condition.

Children learn how to keep themselves safe; for example, when outside the home they learn how to cross the road safely and walk nicely. The childminder is alert to her responsibilities with regard to supervision and children's risk of injury in the home is minimal as she has identified and fully addressed most potential hazards. However, sharp knives are kept in a kitchen drawer and although the childminder stores them at the back of the drawer, they are accessible to the children. Security is given a high priority. Children are aware of procedures if evacuation is necessary because they have practised the fire drill.

Children's welfare is satisfactorily safeguarded because the childminder is aware of her responsibilities with regard to child protection and local referral procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children are keen to be involved in play activities. Independence is developing well and they enthusiastically select resources. The childminder ensures that a good variety of activities and experiences are available for all children and she is fully aware of their individual needs. Routines are good, consistent and include activities inside and outside the home. Children are learning and developing as a result of stimulating and challenging experiences. They are developing social skills at parent and toddler groups, physical skills at soft play centres, parks and a 'Busy Bodies' group at a local primary school. At home children enjoy free play when they choose construction toys, creative and messy play, drawing, story times, singing, and use of the computer. Periodic activities include planting and growing and children have grown daffodils and strawberries. They choose different fruits at the supermarket for food tasting activities. On a daily basis children are learning to recognise letters and numerals, they count and name shapes and colours.

Children are well cared for and the childminder ensures that resources and activities meet the needs of children at their different stages of development. She continually offers support and encouragement and children are happy and settled.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from good communication between the childminder and parents as this addresses consistency of care and ensures that individual needs are known and met. Admission forms are thorough and time is spent each day sharing information. Parents always visit before care of their child begins and, in order to address emotional needs, parents are expected to gradually settle their child in.

Children are learning to appreciate and value each others' similarities and differences. They talk about home experiences, celebrate religious and cultural festivals and discuss ways in which people are different, for example, disability and reasons why some people wear spectacles. Resources reflect diversity. Activities are adapted so that all children are able to take part and the childminder has experience of working with parents to ensure that children with special needs are able to reach their full potential.

Children's self esteem is given a high priority and a behaviour management policy strongly emphasises the use of praise, encouraging children to treat each other and adults with respect and "making each child feel valued". Children are aware of the childminder's house rules that include no pushing, climbing on the furniture or slamming doors. Children are learning to share and take turns. The childminder is a good role model and children benefit from her consistent methods of behaviour management which include explanation and distraction.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are settled and made welcome in the childminder's home. Daily routines are

consistent and activities are varied. Children's independence is developing well, activities are organised to meet different needs and thorough admission information and verbal communication with parents ensures that individual needs are met. The organisation of resources and activities is good.

Documentation is well organised and records are kept up to date and in good order. A prospectus is provided for parents and they are aware of policies and procedures drawn up on behaviour, complaints and child protection. Parents are asked to complete an annual questionnaire at the time when contracts are reviewed. The childminder demonstrates a commitment to improving her knowledge and skills as she regularly attends training. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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

At the time of the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that children are supervised on the stairs and landing. The childminder ensures that children do not play in the hallway and children are able to tell her when they wish to use the toilet on the first floor. As it would be possible for a child to climb through the barriers on the side of the stairway and on the landing, the childminder supervises at all times.

The childminder was asked to ensure that written agreements with parents are regularly updated and reviewed and to gain an awareness of the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures. These recommendations have been satisfactorily addressed. The childminder has attended 'Introduction to Safeguarding Children' training and has gained greater confidence in identification, recording and referral of child abuse.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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.
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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):

- make kitchen knives inaccessible to children.

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)