



## Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 302937             |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 30 August 2005     |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Tracey Jane Outram |

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| <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:

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| 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 has been registered since 1982 and she lives with her husband who is also a registered assistant. She works in close partnership with a co-childminder.

Children access the ground floor of the home this includes the conservatory, dining kitchen and lounge. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The premises are situated close to public transport, shops, children's play areas and parks. Schools and pre-school facilities for younger children are situated in the locality.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years old when working alone. At times, when she works with her assistant or her co-childminder then together they can care for 10 children. There are currently nine minded children on roll four of whom are aged under five years.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment that is very clean and well maintained. They have the opportunity to develop and observe effective hygiene practices, which help to minimize the risk of infections. The childminder implements appropriate procedures for dealing with children's health requirements and therefore their individual needs are successfully met. However, the childminders first aid certificate has expired and therefore she is not sufficiently prepared to ensure children's well-being is maintained should an accident occur.

The children have lots of opportunities to enjoy physical exercise. They use the well equipped garden and play area each day without restraint. They thoroughly enjoy using wheeled toys, climbing frames and a small trampoline. Consequently, their muscles are strengthened and they develop confidence in their own physical abilities.

The children are provided with drinks regularly, especially on warm days or after they have exercised. The childminder helps children to learn about healthy and unhealthy foods and they are provided with a balanced diet that reflects the wishes of their parents.

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

The provision is good.

The home is a child friendly environment and good arrangements are in place to ensure that children are able to move around the designated play areas independently. Potential hazards are effectively addressed in order to maintain a secure environment both indoors and outdoors.

The children are able to choose from a wide range of toys and equipment that are high quality, clean and well maintained. These are easily accessible and most are stored at child height which allows children to make choices for themselves. The equipment used by younger children and babies such as high chairs and pushchairs are in good condition, ensuring the continued safety of the children at all times.

The childminder demonstrates a clear working knowledge of the child protection procedures and she is confident to report any concerns in order to ensure children remain safe and protected from abuse.

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

The provision is good.

The children are happy and settled in the bright, cheerful and friendly environment. Relationships are very good and the children demonstrate a genuine fondness for one another. They are supported by the childminder to value each other. Consequently, they interact together very well demonstrating mutual respect and an ability to share and take-turns.

Children are provided with lots of opportunities to play imaginatively and creatively. For example, children taking part in a role play activity share equipment as they pretend to mend imaginary broken cars and toys around the home. They begin to problem solve and they help each other to learn new words such as, screwdriver and pliers.

Children demonstrate a great deal of enjoyment during their play and, the childminder effectively helps to develop their ability to concentrate. The children show great interest in what they do, they confidently ask questions and respond to the clear explanations given by the childminder therefore, developing their confidence and self-esteem.

Activities are age appropriate and matched to children's interests and needs. Older children are helped to prepare for school by spending some time practising pencil control, forming letters and naming shapes. Whilst younger children receive the support and re-assurance they require by having familiar routines and access to equipment such as musical toys to stimulate their senses. All of the children are very much involved in the daily routine and consequently they are alert, happy and content.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals and positive strategies are implemented to ensure that they are helped to develop a positive self image and respect for others. Children are responded to with warmth, affection and understanding, which helps to develop their sense self-worth. The children have equal access to all resources and they begin to learn about the wider world through using books, dressing-up clothes and dolls that positively address diversity.

Good strategies are put into practice to ensure the effective management of children's behaviour. Children are familiar with the boundaries of acceptable behaviour and have a clear understanding of the simple house rules for example sharing toy and basic safety rules. They are offered reasoned explanations when they are asked to conform or in the case of younger children distraction techniques are used effectively.

The childminder has developed a very trusting and supportive relationship with the children's parents'. Relationships and channels of verbal communication are very

good and this help to ensure children's individual needs are effectively catered for.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is well organised and has a good daily routines which effectively contribute to children's high self-confidence. They move around the home confidently and they are clearly very happy and settled with the environment.

All of the required documentation is maintained appropriately, but parents do not have access to any formal policies and procedures and the details of the co-childminder are not recorded on contracts. The childminder manages her time effectively, which ensures all children receive a good level of care. They are well supervised at all times and appropriately supported in their learning and development. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children attending.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop her documentation and improve security. She has now up-dated her records and ensured that her premises remain safe and secure. Consequently, the organisation and the safety of the children has been improved.

## **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:

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| 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):

- ensure that a current first aid certificate is maintained
- ensure that documentation shared with parents states the arrangements for working with a co-childminder.

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)