



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	223342
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 January 2006
<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 1999 and occasionally works with an assistant. She lives with her husband and children aged 15, 12 and 7 years, on the outskirts of the city of Hereford. The whole of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The family have one cat, a rabbit and fish as pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding five children on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group and

takes children on visits and outings.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and warm home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They have access to good quality hand washing resources and benefit from gentle reminders and explanations from the childminder. All of the children's needs are well met, with care tailored to meet their individual rest, feeding and toileting routines.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. There are good daily opportunities both inside and outdoors for children to be active and gain control of their bodies. Each day they go for walks and play in the garden with resources that promote and extend their developing physical control. They enjoy throwing and catching, having fun on the slide and riding on wheeled toys. They enjoy picnics sitting in the shade in the warmer weather. Visits to the park further improve children's physical skills and provides the opportunity to learn about the environment and their local community.

The children enjoy eating meals that their parents provide in lunch boxes. These are stored appropriately in the fridge and if necessary are heated accordingly and heat tested before they are offered to the children. Their preferences are well catered for and the childminder has a sound knowledge of the children's dietary needs. Parents' wishes are respected and they are kept well informed about the quantity of food that their child has eaten. Fresh drinks are readily available and younger children are regularly prompted to have a drink. The childminder provides snacks for the children and these are sufficient in quantity, healthy and nutritious. Mealtimes are sociable occasions, with the children and the childminder enjoying a shared meal. Younger children are helped to learn how to feed themselves and table manners are actively encouraged.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, safe and secure indoor and outdoor environment. The childminder is proactive in identifying and minimising potential hazards and completes visual risk assessments throughout the day. This allows the children to move around safely, freely and independently. The garden is secure and the area in which the children play is safe and suitable for their use. Positive steps are taken to help children learn about safe play in the home and whilst out walking. Children do not however learn about or practise appropriate actions to take in case of fire as there is no clear emergency evacuation plan in place. The childminder has all of the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is

safeguarded and promoted. She holds a current first aid certificate and has a sound knowledge of child protection procedures which are in line with local Area Child Protection Committee guidelines.

The children are interested and challenged by the resources that are available to them. They spend time exploring their playthings and concentrate on their chosen activity. There is a wide range of toys that are in good condition and are suitable for children of all ages and stages of development. Younger children are kept safe as the childminder carefully monitors and supervises their choice of toys to make sure that they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Toys and resources are stored so that children can make choices, reach them easily and safely, and develop their independence.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy and confident and interact positively with the childminder, eagerly seeking her to participate in their activities. They respond positively to the praise and encouragement offered to them. Children are making very good developmental progress. This is because of the childminder's excellent knowledge of child development and her willingness to attend training courses to further her knowledge. Children have opportunities to develop early mathematical skills such as counting, understand simple mathematical language and can use this in everyday situations.

Children are eager to participate in planned activities but are also confident to develop their own games, knowing that they are well supported by the childminder. They enjoy arts and crafts, ball games and imaginative role play. Activities are adapted to meet individual development stages to ensure that all children are able to participate at their own level. The childminder is attentive to children's individual needs and tailors the daily routine to ensure that their needs are well met. The children benefit from the childminder's enthusiasm, involvement and interaction in their play. She encourages conversation and asks the children questions to encourage their thinking and extend their knowledge. Children are very vocal and are actively listened to. The childminder gives them her full attention when they communicate, she gets down to the child's level, listens carefully and responds to them and maintains eye contact whilst involved in conversation.

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

The provision is good.

Children are respected and valued as individuals, their needs are well met and their individual likes and dislikes are well catered for. The children have the opportunity to learn about the needs of others and are encouraged to acknowledge differences in an open and honest environment. Children are able to celebrate festivals from their own and other cultures and religions and have access to a range of resources that promote positive images of diversity. They enjoy the natural environment and have

the opportunity to experience the changing seasons in the garden and when out for walks. The childminder has a good understanding that some children may have special or additional needs. She has procedures in place to liaise with parents and other professionals as appropriate, to identify those needs in order to meet them.

The children behave well and are rewarded for their positive behaviour with praise and encouragement. They have formed good relationships with their peers and are happy and at ease in the company of the childminder. Children's understanding of right from wrong is developed as they respond to gentle reminders to care for the environment, the resources and each other. Positive relationships have been formed with the parents. Their views and wishes are sought and respected. Parents are kept well informed about the activities offered to the children and the progress that they make through daily written and verbal exchanges of information.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, comfortable and stimulating environment and benefit significantly from the childminder's childcare qualifications, experience and ongoing commitment to improving her practice through training. The home is effectively organised to ensure that children are always well cared for and they benefit from plenty of room to play and rest. Toys and resources are readily available to children, who are able to access their playthings with ease.

All of the required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place. Documents are carefully stored, well organised and effectively maintained. They are regularly reviewed and are only accessed by the childminder, ensuring that confidentiality is maintained. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to ensure that her contracts and children's records are regularly reviewed and updated.

The childminder has ensured that all of her contracts and children's records are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure children's individual needs are met.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004.

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):

- produce a fire evacuation plan which is shared with parents and practised with 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)