



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY278296
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 June 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Sandra Laura Bates
<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 registered in 2004. She is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding only one child on a part time basis. The childminder lives with her two children under five years of age, in a terraced house in Burnham, within walking distance of local amenities. The minding is generally confined to the ground floor of the property where there are washing and toileting facilities. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The childminder also makes use of local play venues and places of interest.

The family have a pet dog which is kept in an enclosed run during the time that minded children are present.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in clean and well maintained surroundings. There are appropriate facilities for personal hygiene and children begin to learn how to manage their own needs independently. The childminder explains to the children why this is important and children understand the reasons for washing their hands before a meal for instance. The childminder has appropriate resources and training for the administration of first aid, ensuring that children's needs can be managed swiftly and effectively. Children do not have contact with family pets as these are kept in a separate enclosure. Children develop their physical skills and health as they play energetically out of doors with a good range of appropriate equipment.

Children are provided with a full and varied range of healthy meals and snacks which take into account their personal preferences and individual needs, and allow for some 'fun foods', such as hot dogs, on occasions. They freely access drinks in adequate quantities to ensure that they are well hydrated. There are well understood routines for mealtimes and children enjoy the social aspect of this shared experience. They tuck in enthusiastically to the meals provided. Children demonstrate very good manners at the table. They ask politely for what they want and say thank you without prompting.

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

The provision is good.

Children play and rest in a safe and comfortable environment. The areas available to them are spacious and free from any major obstructions to their play. The childminder supervises the children very carefully at all times. She identifies any potential hazards and takes steps to reduce risks to children. Children do not become too hot or too cold because the childminder adjusts her play plans according to the prevailing weather. There is careful attention to security, children cannot leave the premises unaccompanied. Children rest on or in suitable equipment designed for their needs.

Children use a range of clean, well maintained resources and equipment that are suitable for their age and stage of development, and which promote their early learning and the development of new skills. Children access the materials easily and make free choices.

Children begin to learn about how to keep themselves safe. The childminder talks to them about why they need to sit securely to eat, or to keep out of the kitchen while she cooks for instance. Children understand the procedures to follow in the event of a fire or similar emergency. The childminder puts in place relevant safety features that ensure that children are protected from harm.

Children's welfare is protected due to the childminder's secure understanding of child protection issues and related referral procedures. She is confident that she would recognise any signs or symptoms of abuse or neglect, and she knows the steps to take if she had concerns.

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

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's care. They make good relationships with her and the other children present. The childminder demonstrates a warm and affectionate demeanour that makes children feel valued and cared for.

The childminder plans activities and outings carefully to ensure that the children experience a wide range of interesting and challenging play opportunities. Children share the resources and are well occupied with worthwhile activities both indoors and outside. Children participate in activities that help them to understand a variety of concepts such as growing plants from seed in pots that they have painted and decorated themselves. The childminder encourages children to explore their feelings through drawing and stories.

Children select their preferred toys and other materials independently from the easily accessed range provided for them.

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

The provision is good.

Children are sociable, confident individuals. The childminder's close attention to their needs and wishes helps to foster their self esteem. Children behave well. They show good manners at the meal table, for instance, saying please and thank you with very little prompting from the childminder. Children respond quickly and show respect for the childminder's wishes. They know what is expected of them. The childminder thanks and praises the children for their helpful or polite behaviour. She works closely with parents to ensure a consistent approach to behaviour management.

Children develop an understanding of social diversity and the wider world through playing with resources that reflect positive images, and participating in activities linked to a variety of festivals and multi-cultural celebrations. They are encouraged to explore situations that they do not understand through stories, art work and role play.

Children benefit from the childminder's positive relationships with their parents. They talk every day to exchange information and the childminder also completes a daily diary if parents require it. The childminder clearly articulates her policies and procedures to parents although this discussion is not enhanced by written supporting documents. The childminder provides additional material such as an album of photographed activities so that parents can share in their children's enjoyment.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises the space and her time effectively to ensure that children have time to play, eat and rest if they need to. Well planned activities, routines and other events ensure that children can make the best use of their time with the childminder. She has the necessary knowledge and understanding to enable her to provide a professional and caring service.

The childminder has in place the necessary records to ensure that she has all the required information to meet children's individual needs. Documents are stored efficiently and accessibly. Regulatory documentation is properly maintained.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

Not applicable.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 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):

- consider developing a range of written supporting policies and procedures to underpin the service offered.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)