



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	223831
<b>Inspection date</b>	16 August 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Margaret Webster

<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 2000. She sometimes works with an assistant. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 6 years and 8 years. The whole of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed outside play area. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect the children. She attends the local toddler groups, takes the children to the local library and the local park.

The childminder is registered to care for 4 children under the age of 8 years at any one time, when working alone and when working with an assistant may care for 6 children under the age of 8 years. There are 8 children currently on roll.

The childminder supports children with special educational needs.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

The childminder takes positive steps to develop children's understanding and awareness of good health and hygiene. She explains the importance of hand washing. She provides encouragement and support. Children use good quality hand washing facilities before meals, after playing outside and at frequent intervals during the day. This reduces the risk of cross contamination.

Sick children are made comfortable, procedures include contacting parents, obtaining emergency medical treatment and administering first aid if necessary. She has a sick children's policy. It informs the parents that she will not admit children who have been ill within the last 24 hours and if they have any other child ailments. This enables children to stay healthy.

Children are offered drinks regularly throughout the day. Snack and mealtimes are sociable occasions and children and childminder enjoy a shared meal in the family kitchen. The parents can provide the meals or the childminder will cook for them. Snacks and meals offered are nutritious and sufficient in quantity. Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. The childminder takes account of the parents' wishes and the children's choices to provide meals and snacks that appeal to them and meet dietary requirements.

Children are developing awareness of a healthy lifestyle as they partake in good physical activities, they walk to the library and to and from school. There is a selection of large apparatus in the garden that enables the children to develop their physical skills. The younger children join in the activities enthusiastically because the childminder makes good use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Her good understanding about appropriate types of activities and levels of support gives them confidence to try out new skills, set their own limits and know when to ask for help.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a environment where risks are identified and, where possible, minimised. They have to walk through the kitchen to enter the playroom, this is a potential hazard as the childminder provides cooked meals. Most of the safety equipment is in place. For example, safety gates at the top and the bottom of the stairs, fire blanket fixed to the wall in the kitchen, smoke alarms on both floors of the property and all electric sockets are covered and leads are made safe. Children's awareness of safety issues is continuously developed through everyday activities within the home and during outings. When out walking, they use the green cross code. Hazards such as water, fire as appropriate, practising emergency evacuation procedures are discussed with the children.

Children are well protected. The childminder has attended training on child protection and has a good understanding of the indicators of abuse. She will be attending a course soon to extend her knowledge. She has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted.

Attention is given to the condition and safety of equipment. All equipment is checked when it is used and if damaged she will throw it away or have it repaired. This ensures that the children have access to toys and equipment that meet safety standards.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of child development. She takes time to find out what interests each child. What he or she knows, what they can do and builds on this information to plan and provide a variety of activities and opportunities. This helps the child to progress in all areas of learning. For example, at the time of visit children were doing a collage of the seaside, they were using paints, sticking and gluing, cutting out. The children present were happy and content in the childminder's company. There was a wide selection of toys and equipment for a wide age range. They were playing board games. She plans her activities in advance. The children are taken on outings to places of interest. She has written and signed permission from the parents to take the children on outings and in the car. Children are encouraged to make the most of their experiences by the childminder's careful consideration of what the child might be able to learn from the different activities and what they will say and do, to guide their learning. She consistently and positively interacts with the children to encourage their interest, involvement and learning.

Children also learn by participating in many day-to-day domestic routines and activities as well as from particular activities and resources provided. This ensures the children benefit from a wide and varied range of experiences. For example, helping to set the table for lunch, tidying away toys and activities, helping and talking to the baby present.

The children are developing positive relationships, they are developing listening and communication skills. They were playing board games, reading and listening to stories, happy and content in the childminder's company. The childminder listens to the children and responds to what they say.

Children are developing independence, they are able to access resources for themselves, using their initiative and taking responsibility. They behave well in response to warm encouragement and praise.

Parents receive good quality information about the provision, particularly the activities and outings. They are informed about children's progress and achievements. The childminder actively encourages parents and carers to become involved in their child's learning. They exchange information each day and she keeps records of what the younger children have done, eaten, slept, and when changed.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. There are jigsaws, books, dolls, art and craft materials, dressing up clothes, posters on the walls in the playroom. They celebrate festivals from all cultures by doing art and craft activities and eating different foods. The children are taken on outings to places of interest in the local community. This increases their knowledge and understanding of other peoples cultures and the world around them. All the children are treated with equal concern and respect. Boys and girls are provided with support to explore various play opportunities such as physical 'rough and tumble', role and imaginative play, baking, and quieter activities such as reading and drawing.

The childminder would welcome children with special needs. She would work with the parents and any outside agencies involved with the care of the child. She would ensure that the child was provided with the appropriate toys and equipment that would promote their welfare and development.

The children respond to clear behaviour management policy and strategies which are shared with and understood by parents. There are effective and consistent ways for dealing with children's behaviour, which includes setting boundaries, using praise rather than criticism, talking to children about their behaviour or distracting them from the situation. For example, when the children were arguing about the board game they were playing with the childminder talked to them and discussed with them why they must take turns and not cheat.

Written agreements with parents are clear and detailed. Regular discussions take place with parents to exchange information and discuss concerns. There are good partnerships with parents. Parents are regularly informed of their child's progress and childminding activities. For example, a daily diary is maintained and shared with parents. She has letters from the parents saying how happy they are with the service that she provides. Information is provided to parents about the childminding practice and service provided. The children benefit from the parents' involvement.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease with the well organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. They are shared regularly with the parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. Comprehensive systems are monitored and adapted to keep children safe and enable them to make good progress in all areas of their development. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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

Since the previous inspection, the childminder has kept records of the dates and times when the assistant has worked with her. She has obtained signed written permission from the parents to apply sun cream to the children when necessary.

### **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:

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 the children do not have access to the kitchen while cooking meals.

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)