



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY103191
<b>Inspection date</b>	01 February 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Sarah Jane Rhodes

<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 2002, she works with her mother who is also a registered childminder. She lives with her husband, mother and father and two adult siblings, on a farm in the north of Staffordshire, between Macclesfield and Leek. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and first floor bedrooms are used for daytime sleeping. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 13 children under five all day and 4 children over five before

and after school with her co-childminder. The childminder attends the local library activity sessions. The family has 2 dogs and 6 cats.

She is a member of an approved childminding network.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and very welcoming home. Excellent procedures are in place to help children learn about personal hygiene, for example, hand washing before meals or after using the toilet and using their own individual towel. Good procedures followed by the childminder help protect children from illness and infection, when nappy changing she uses an apron and gloves. The childminder's sickness policy excludes children who are infectious, ensuring children are protected from this avenue of cross infection. The children benefit from toys that are kept clean through systematic cleaning. Babies have their own set of toys cleaned weekly to avoid cross infection.

The childminder ensures that pets have all vaccinations and health checks and generally keeps the children and animals separate, this ensures the children are protected and can play safely. Children's medical needs both in an emergency and with regard to ongoing medication are met through the use of accident and medication procedures that are clear and understood by the childminder.

The childminder works in partnership with parents to meet the children's individual dietary needs. She provides a very appetising, healthy and nutritious home cooked diet and encourages all children to make healthy choices. The children have access to healthy drinks throughout the day ensuring they are not left thirsty. The childminder recognises when the children need a rest or meal, the children are able to eat or rest according to their individual needs.

The children enjoy activities which contribute to their good health. They increase their physical control through daily outside play with a range of equipment and indoor music and movement sessions. This helps them develop their coordination and physical strength.

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

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a very safe and secure environment, hazards are identified and minimised but ongoing risk assessments are not recorded. The home is well maintained and thoughtfully organised, this means the children can move around safely and independently. The children generally use three rooms, the playroom, lounge and dining kitchen, for a range of activities. They are encouraged to walk around inside and clear away when they have finished with a toy, this minimises the chance of accidents. The outside area is fenced and gated, the

childminder supervises the children when outside to enable them to play safely. She ensures children are aware of safety rules when out on trips and practises her emergency evacuation procedure with the children to ensure they have a full understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

An extremely wide range of safe, appropriate toys, suitable for the age range attending is readily accessible in the playroom and outside for the children to select from. These toys are rotated with toys from the toy store in an outbuilding, which maintains children's interest. The childminder has all required documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, she has a current first aid certificate and appropriate car insurance. The childminder has sound knowledge of child protection procedures, appropriate record keeping and her ultimate role, in line with the latest government guidelines, ensuring children are protected from harm or neglect.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The children are very settled, confident and happy. The structured routine allows them to predict what is going to happen next, build on and achieve skills practised before, for example, getting dressed for outside play, climbing and sliding or music and movement. They relate extremely well to the childminder, their play and learning is actively extended by the childminder's conversations with them and her appropriate questioning. Children enjoy lots of general verbal communication and constant positive reinforcement and praise. Their work is highly valued and carefully displayed to aid their learning and make the playroom bright and welcoming, giving the children a strong sense of belonging. Photographs help them remember past events. All this helps to build children's self-esteem and confidence to learn new skills. Children become increasingly independent as they learn to use the toilet and to feed themselves.

The childminder skilfully plans a very broad range of effective and stimulating activities both inside and outside the home for the children, often based around themes, the current themes are the Chinese New Year and the colour yellow. Written plans are produced to show long term themes, as well as more detailed weekly planning to ensure many activities relate to each other and stretch the children, with a clear objective. Activities are evaluated to ensure they relate to the, 'Birth to three matters' framework. The childminder informally assesses the children's interests, learning styles and stages of development, for example, the older children enjoy games and colouring activities, while the younger children, currently, enjoy shop play and cars. These observations are used to tailor the activities to children's individual needs. Progress tick charts are used by the childminder to assess children's development and these along with the evaluations of the activities are used to plan the next steps for their play and learning. The children are very well occupied because the childminder has a co-childminder, so, for example, when lunch is being finished by one childminder, children can have a story and game with the other childminder. The children concentrate for good periods of time, they show good skill levels or their age in a number of activities both inside and on the outside equipment.

On the day of inspection they played with the shop role play, undertook a craft activity related to Chinese New Year, had extensive outdoor play opportunities, as well as stories and games related to the colour theme.

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

The provision is good.

Children are seen very much as individuals, their unique needs are met within a structured routine as discussed with their parents. Children have access to all age appropriate activities regardless of gender. A wide range of resources, toys, books and posters, that reflect positive images of culture and gender are available. Limited access to resources with positive images of disability is provided. A comprehensive range of specific activities are undertaken each month, that encourage children to have positive attitudes and an awareness of diversity and the wider world. The childminder has experience of caring for children with a number of different special needs and has a very good understanding of how to provide appropriate care and activities.

Children behave exceptionally well for their age and stage of development, they respond positively to the childminder's boundaries, feeling secure knowing what they can and cannot do. They play harmoniously and supportively, developing positive relationships. Children's self-esteem is boosted by constant praise, explanation and encouragement, for example, 'nice sitting', 'nice walking', 'thank you for helping to find the boots', 'because x is younger he is still learning and needs help'.

A positive relationship with parents and carers is promoted right from the beginning. The childminder visits the parents and child in their own home, this gives an opportunity to share written information about the childminding service and find out about the child's needs and personality. Parents are then able to visit the childminder's home, with their child, as many times as they require before the child starts attending. All required written consents are obtained from parents. Information about how children have been during the day is passed on to parents verbally and through the use of a daily diary. Parents are encouraged to share any information that they think will help the childminder when working with their child. This enables childminder and parents to work together to meet the needs of the children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The children are very comfortable and feel extremely secure in a child orientated, well organised, stimulating environment. This means they are confident and able to initiate their own play and are exceptionally well occupied.

Training is seen by the childminder as vitally important, a very valuable way of developing her knowledge and expertise in childcare issues. She has undertaken her BTEC Diploma in Childcare, 'Introduction to Childminding Practice' and approximately 30 other short courses since 1999. She is also an active member of

the Staffordshire Moorland's Childminding Network. These courses and her involvement with the childminding network broaden the childminder's knowledge and contribute vastly to the quality of care provided.

A comprehensive range of written policies and procedures are in place, very well organised and used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. The policies and procedures are shared with parents to provide continuity in the children's care. All paperwork is kept exceptionally secure and confidential. The system of storage, from children's details to activity plans and props is creatively thought through and very effective, ensuring the smooth running of the provision. Overall children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to have regard to the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs. She has familiarised herself with this document and used it when working with specific children, ensuring they had appropriate care.

This has ensured the quality of the care is now of a good standard.

### **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.
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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):

- further develop risk assessments within the home
- continue to increase resources that provide positive images of disability.

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)