



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	123907
<b>Inspection date</b>	03 January 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Kerry Freshwater

<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 1993. She lives with her husband and two adult children. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five all day and four children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a pet dog and three hamsters.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. They play in the garden and visit local open spaces regularly to benefit from the fresh air. Children experience a variety of physical activities using both large and small equipment. For example, they climb on apparatus at the local park, ride bikes and scooters and crawl through the tunnel in the garden. In the house they enjoy building with bricks and completing puzzles.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They are cared for in a welcoming, clean home where they understand the importance of regular cleaning routines to keep them safe and healthy. Children have a clear understanding of why they must wash their hands after playing in the garden, touching animals or using the toilet. Children learn about keeping their bodies healthy through discussion with the childminder and role play activities.

Children are beginning to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They know which type of food is good to eat and will help them grow up big and strong. Children have access to drinks throughout the day and enjoy fresh fruit as snacks. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents. She encourages children with their meals and presents them attractively to them.

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

The provision is good.

Children's safety is a high priority and they are cared for in a home where risks are identified and minimised. They move around safely, freely and independently and adhere to house rules to keep them safe. The childminder helps children understand how to keep themselves free from harm inside and outside of the home through discussion and leading by example. Children know not to climb furniture so they do not fall and hurt themselves. They practise crossing the road safely and have talked about evacuating the home in emergency situations. However, safety in the event of a fire, or the need for emergency escape from the home, has not been covered in the activities for the children.

A broad range of safe, developmentally appropriate resources are available for children and most are easily accessible. This enables the children to independently select their play and activities safely. The childminder has the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, she has a good understanding of Child Protection issues. She has attended training in this area and has all the relevant documentation in place.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a broad variety of exciting play and activities which are child led or planned and organised by the childminder. They receive adult guidance to give them extra support if needed but their independence is promoted as much as possible. The childminder sets them challenges along with a range of stimulating play to aid their development.

Children benefit from a range of activities which help develop their knowledge and skills. For example, children begin to know different colours as they draw and play with play dough. Sharing books helps to develop their language and reading skills. Activity games enhance their matching and sequencing. Access to toys and equipment for differing abilities encourages the children's progress. They become confident and adept at cutting with scissors, completing puzzles and jigsaws and using fine paint brushes and pens for drawing. Regular use of creative materials such as pencils, crayons, paint, play dough and glue encourages the children to represent their ideas in a variety of ways. Children enthusiastically produce collage pictures by sticking fallen leaves to paper. They have a number of opportunities to express their feelings and experiences through imaginative play with dressing up clothes, role play and a large collection of dolls and kitchen equipment.

Children's confidence and self-esteem is developed with frequent praise and encouragement which is given at appropriate times. Children's sense of belonging is promoted by the childminder who knows them well and values their achievements which she shares with parents.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder provides interesting and meaningful resources to promote a positive view of the wider world. Children enjoy books, dolls, dressing up and learn about disability as they play with small figures. They learn where different foods come from such as 'pizza' as they play with the kitchen.

Children are valued and respected. Their individual needs are met as they follow their daily routine which is discussed with parents. Children behave very well. They understand right and wrong through consistent boundaries, praise and the age appropriate methods used by the childminder to manage behaviour. Children are considerate, learn to share, take turns and are polite, remembering to say please and thank you. The childminder provides opportunities for children to socialise at the local park which helps them make positive relationships with others. Realistic challenges are set by the childminder to help the children develop. This promotes their confidence and self-esteem. They feel relaxed and secure and able to make independent choices about what they want to do.

Children benefit from a very strong partnership between the childminder and parents who exchange information frequently. They have daily discussions and are provided with information about the service including policies and procedures. This helps provide consistency in the children's care and keeps parents well informed of how

their child's needs are being met.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The children's needs are met through very effective organisation and good communication with parents. Space and equipment are prepared so that children can access resources easily and independently which enables them to make choices about their play. A balance of child led activities and organised play ensure children have a range of different enjoyable experiences whilst they are with the childminder. A balance of child led activities and organised play ensure children have a range of different enjoyable experiences whilst they are with the childminder. They benefit from routines which make them feel secure and relaxed. Children play, eat, sleep and rest as they need to.

Documentation is stored securely and information shared appropriately with parents. All of the required policies and procedures are in place to help keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare. Children benefit from the childminder's experience and knowledge of their development. The childminder holds a current first aid qualification.

Overall, the needs of all the children who attend are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to consider further training in order to develop her practice.

The childminder has since attended a child protection training course and is considering further training relating to creative play.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- practise fire evacuation to ensure children are able to leave the premises safely in emergency situations.

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)