



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY308852
<b>Inspection date</b>	04 January 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Jacqueline Mason

<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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2005. She lives with her partner in Stafford. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding along with upstairs bathroom facilities. An upstairs bedroom is used for sleeping children. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder currently cares for seven children on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She attends the local childminder support group and is able to take children to and collect them

from the local school.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's home is clean and tidy. Children are learning about the importance of good hygiene to promote good health. Well established hygiene routines and clear explanations increase children's understanding of the importance of washing their hands to help maintain good health. Children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs. However, children are not provided with individual bedding and therefore risks of cross infection are increased. Satisfactory procedures for sick children ensures that the best interests of children are met if they are unwell and the arrangements to exclude sick children help others to remain healthy.

Healthy eating is encouraged. Children's dietary needs are met by parents as they generally provide all meals for their children. The childminder provides drinks and snacks and these are agreed with parents to ensure that their wishes are met. Drinks are provided regularly and children are encouraged to recognise when they are thirsty. Children's physical skills are developing well. Regular outings to the local park ensures that children have plentiful opportunities to take part in physical play.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected because the childminder has effective arrangements for their safe arrival and collection. She has clear procedures that she would follow if she was concerned about changes to persons arriving to collect them. The premises are kept secure. The childminder has taken appropriate steps to limit hazards and has home safety equipment, such as a fire guard and stair gates in place. The pond has been filled in to allow children to play safely outdoors. Procedures for outings help children to learn about road safety. A fire evacuation procedure has been identified and this has been discussed with older children. However, attention has not been paid to ensure that children are able to be safely evacuated from the house if they are in different areas of it, for example if they are sleeping in upstairs rooms. Working smoke alarms are installed on each floor.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues. She is able to identify the signs and symptoms of abuse and is aware of her responsibilities to ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded. The childminder is confident to report concerns to ensure that the best interests of the children are met.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of child development which helps her to plan an appropriate range of activities that ensures children's personal, social and intellectual development is well supported. Children are provided with a varied day that offers them a range of experiences. The provision of a suitable and varied range of toys and equipment that are of good quality, clean and safe helps to promote all areas of children's development. The childminder is careful to ensure that toys are appropriate for the age range attending. Activities are planned to take into account children's interests and individual needs. Younger children are able to choose freely from the range selected by the childminder each day. Older children are encouraged to be more independent and are able to self-select from the range of games and puzzles that are stored on a low-level unit. The childminder has good relationships with the children. She responds well to them and is interested in what they say and do. For example, she responds positively to babies' babble to encourage their language development.

Children have opportunities to be indoors and outside and their social skills are developing as they meet other children through outings to the local parks. This also promotes their physical development.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder works well with parents and carers to meet individual children's needs. The childminder does not have a procedure for parents and carers to follow if they have a complaint about the service that she offers. However, effective arrangements to work in partnership with them enables them to make informed choices about their children's care. Information is shared daily to ensure that parents and carers are kept up-to-date about their children's progress and the childminder encourages them to share what they know about their child with her. The childminder works well to continue children's individual routines, for example babies' sleep and meal patterns. Children are valued as individuals and the childminder has good relationships with them.

There are satisfactory arrangements to promote equal opportunities. The childminder promotes positive images of culture, disability and gender successfully giving children the opportunity to learn about the diversity of the world around them and develop a respectful attitude to others. Children are encouraged to share and take turns. The childminder encourages good behaviour by valuing and praising individual efforts, such as recognising when a child has been kind, behaved well or used good manners. Unwanted behaviour is managed successfully using strategies that are appropriate to the children's age and level of understanding. Through this, children successfully learn right from wrong and understand the consistent behaviour boundaries set.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Although her registration certificate is not displayed the childminder maintains documentation well. She is aware of the need to store records securely to ensure that confidentiality is maintained. Copies of policy statements are given to parents and carers on the commencement of childminding arrangements which enables them to make informed choices about their children's care.

The childminder's home is warm and welcoming to parents, carers and children. Space is used effectively to offer children a variety of play experiences and offer environments where children can play freely as well as providing quiet areas for rest and sleep. The childminder has appropriate childcare qualifications and experience to enable her to offer an appropriate standard of care. A good knowledge of how children develop is used effectively to help the childminder plan an interesting and varied day. Children have sufficient adult support to help them feel valued and secure. The childminder tries to ensure that children have one-to-one attention each day. Children are effectively protected from persons who have not been vetted. Overall the provision meets the needs of those for whom it 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 satisfactory. 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 all necessary precautions are taken to limit the spread of infection
- develop the fire evacuation procedure to ensure that all children can be kept safe and easily evacuated from the house in an emergency

- provide a complaints procedure for parents and carers that includes the contact details of the regulator

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)