



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	251915
<b>Inspection date</b>	07 February 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Permjit Tanda

<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.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1993 and is also an approved short term foster carer.

She lives with her partner, twin daughters aged 17 years and two foster children aged 8 and 9 years. They live in a house in the Oxley, Wolverhampton. There are local shops, a school and a library within walking distance. The ground floor of the property and bathroom on the first floor is used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder uses local pre-school groups and regularly meets other childminders at the foster carers meetings.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy an adequate range of activities, which contribute to their good health. The children have daily opportunities to walk to and from school. They increase their physical skills through taking part in dance and movement to their favourite children's television programme. Children increase their physical skills through a satisfactory range of small equipment and use the garden to run and play games. Children learn the importance of appropriate hygiene and personal care and the importance of washing their hands to help maintain good health. Good hygiene practices are adopted to prevent the spread of infection. The children's welfare is promoted because the childminder holds a current first aid certificate.

Parents provide the children's breakfast and lunch. The childminder offers a snack consisting of biscuits, crisps and healthy options such as fresh fruit. Children receive sugar free squash and fresh drinking water this promotes children's healthy eating habits. The childminder takes account of the parents' wishes and the children's choices and is aware of the children's special dietary requirements.

Children are able to have quiet time for sleep or relaxing. They benefit from the childminder's flexible routines which ensure that their individual needs are met appropriately.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder identifies and minimises risks for children in their environment. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently in the environment. The childminder gives good priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe; children learn that certain rules are in place for their safety. For example, children know they can not access certain rooms. The children's safety in the garden and outside the home is continued. Children learn how to cross the road safely and children are beginning to understand about the need to stay safe.

Children independently select activities from a varied range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards.

The children's welfare and safety is promoted as the childminder has a secure understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well at the childminder's house. Children become independent as they choose between a variety of toys. Children are relaxed and confident, they enjoy their time as they watch an appropriate television program. Children show a keen interest in books because they are made easily accessible. For example children independently choose their favourite book and show appropriate levels of interest.

Children have daily opportunities to increase their creativity through colouring and drawing at the easel. They competently build and construct with wooden bricks and small construction toys. Children are encouraged to count, recognise colour, shape and letters of the alphabet through the use of flashcards, puzzles and magnetic letters. Children mainly initiate their own play and learning, whilst the childminder observes and supports as necessary. There are few resources such as, dolls, tea-set, dressing up and few opportunities to experience dough, paint, sand or water. Therefore children do not increase their imagination, exploration and investigation skills successfully.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children increase their awareness of the local environment through their daily walks to and from school. They learn to identify local features such as the opticians and hardware shop. Children have some opportunities to learn about diversity through resources depicting positive images of race and culture. The childminder has an open approach to discussing difference within the group this practice promotes the children's self-esteem.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder meets the children's needs well, she works closely with parents, in order to identify their likes, dislikes and personalities. The childminder uses positive strategies for managing behaviour, which helps children learn to understand behaviour boundaries. Children learn to show care and concern for others and the childminder supports children well to learn right from wrong. Children gain good levels of confidence through praise from the childminder, who encourages this through telling them when they have done something well.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The organisation is satisfactory. The children feel at home and at ease in the environment. Children benefit from a flexible and relaxed routine. There are clear written business contracts and all the required documentation is in place. However, the medication sheets were not available for inspection this impacts on the efficiency of record keeping and compromises the children's welfare.

The childminder shares information regularly with parents through verbal feedback. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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

At the last inspection eleven recommendations were made, which the childminder agreed to implement.

All of the eleven recommendations have been fully met. The children's safety has improved. An accurate daily record of attendance is maintained. There is a clear emergency fire plan in place and an appropriate fire blanket accessible in the kitchen. All smoke alarms are checked regularly and in working order. The low level lock on the bathroom door has been replaced and does not pose as a hazard to children. The childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibility to ensure all persons over the age of 16 living in the household are vetted. She understands her responsibility to notify Ofsted of significant changes, events and serious injury.

The children's welfare has improved because the childminder has undertaken an appropriate course in first aid for infants and young children. The parents' written permission is obtained prior to administering medication.

The range of activities and play opportunities outdoors for children has increased through the availability of a slide, tricycles and various sized balls.

### **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 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):

- increase opportunities and play experiences children have to explore, investigate and use their imagination
- ensure all childminding records are always available for inspection.

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)