



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	223714
<b>Inspection date</b>	30 January 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Olwen Pulker

<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 has been registered since 1995. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 15 and 13. They live in a suburb of Shrewsbury, Shropshire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and the bedrooms are suitable for children requiring a daytime sleep. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 3 children under 5 all day and 5 children over the age of 5 after school and during school holidays. All children attend part-time. The childminder

walks to the local school and regularly attends carer/toddler groups. The family have one dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, comfortable home where they are protected from infection through the implementation of effective hygiene procedures and as a result babies are able to crawl and explore the environment safely. Children learn to follow appropriate hygiene and care routines, for example washing their hands before meals, after using the toilet or playing outside.

Children are encouraged to eat healthily from either the cooked meals or snacks provided by the childminder or the food provided for them by their parents. They enjoy fruit, sandwiches, toast and yoghurts and are developing good table manners through consistent daily routines.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Good use is made of the garden for extended play opportunities as children engage in activities to help develop their physical skills, for example as they use the various play equipment, ride on wheeled toys or play various ball games. They are encouraged to develop a healthy lifestyle as they walk to and from the local school. Children are able to rest or be active according to their needs.

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

The provision is good.

Children have access to the necessary facilities to ensure that they are able to eat and rest comfortably. The environment is welcoming and space is appropriately organised so that children can play safely. They independently select activities from a wide range of good quality, well-maintained toys and equipment. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure that they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Children's safety is appropriately promoted through the childminder's ability to implement necessary precautions both inside and outside the home. Risks have been identified and minimised to allow children the freedom to move around the property in safety. Children are supervised well whilst being given the independence they need to develop and learn.

Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's knowledge of child protection issues, further training has been booked to ensure she has a secure understanding of current legislation and up-to-date procedures for dealing with concerns. A child protection policy is made available to parents so they have a clear

understanding of the setting's procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children have access to a variety of toys, activities and equipment suitable to their ages and stages of development. They are able to initiate their own play and learning ideas and concentrate for long periods at their chosen activities effectively supported by the childminder. The childminder interacts positively with the children in their daily routines and play, encouraging them to explore the natural world as they go for walks and picnics. A wide range of activities is available to children, which promote creative expression, such as collage design, painting and play-doh. Children are developing independence and self-esteem by selecting their activities and taking responsibility for tidying away toys. Children form positive relationships as they share and play cooperatively together. Younger children extend their social skills further by attending carer and toddler groups and playing with others when visiting another childminder. Children become confident communicators; they are well supported by the childminder who enjoys listening and talking to them as she encourages them to recall and share past events. Children are able to broaden their experiences and enjoy outings to local attractions of their choice.

### **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. For example, she regularly exchanges visits with another childminder giving children, one of whom has a physical disability, the opportunity to play with others. Children learn about their local community on routine outings to the play parks, go for walks or have picnics. Visits to such places as Ellesmere introduce the children to the natural world where they follow the progress of ducklings and cygnets as they develop into adult birds.

Children behave well. They are able to share toys and play well together. They learn good manners and respect for others as the childminder provides a good role model. Children understand right and wrong through consistent boundaries, praise and the age appropriate methods the childminder uses to manage behaviour.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their needs are met well as they follow their normal daily routine and receive good support from the childminder. Parents receive daily information about their children's activities and progress and the children benefit from the strong relationships between the childminder and their parents. Written agreements with the parents are mostly clear about the expectations of both parties as regards the provision for the children but no reference is made to the arrangements for the use of sun screen lotions or creams. Consequently children's well-being is not always effectively promoted.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The children are settled and at ease within the appropriately organised surroundings. They are confident to make choices about their own activities and receive support from the childminder to help them feel secure.

The childminder accesses training materials effectively to ensure that she keeps up-to-date with current childcare issues and good practice guidelines. This allows children to be cared for in a stimulating and child-orientated environment.

The required documentation and procedures which contribute to children's health, safety and well-being are mostly in place and shared with parents.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The childminder was required to effectively organise toys and resources to meet children's needs. This has been achieved by having toys suitably stored in the play areas, the childminder making a selection easily accessible according to the ages and interests of the children who are familiar with the wide range of play resources available and who have the confidence to request alternatives. Children benefit from having a rotation of toys which they find interesting and fun to play with.

Children's safety and well-being has been further promoted by the childminder obtaining written authorisation from parents to administer medication.

## **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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<b>WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?</b>
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### **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 written agreements with parents sets out the expectations of both parties with regard to sun protection.

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)