

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	303530
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 February 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Alexandra Cole
<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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1988. She lives with her husband, who is a joint childminder in a semi-detached house property within close proximity to local amenities. Rooms used for childminding purposes are the whole of the ground floor and the bathroom and separate toilet on the first floor. The childminder is registered to care for 12 children when working with her husband and 6 children whilst working alone. They are currently caring for 6 children that attend on a full and part time basis. The childminder takes and collects children from school. The family have 6 rabbits, 3 cats and 2 dogs as pets.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are reasonably well nourished through the childminder providing a sufficient range of meals and snacks that meet children's dietary needs, including the provision of fruit after meals and chopped up vegetables offered as a snack. Children's dietary needs are met sufficiently through discussion with the parents and recording their requirements appropriately.

The childminder has suitable documentation to manage children's accidents and adequate procedures are in place should a child become ill whilst in her care, which she shares appropriately with parents. Children stay healthy because the childminder understands basic hygiene practices which limit the spread of infection. For example, children are encouraged to wash their hands after visiting the bathroom and before meals. However, the nappy changing routine does not effectively prevent the spread of infection.

Children are able to access outdoor activities on a regular basis, such as trips to the local park, walks to the shop and walking to school and back; encouraging them to learn about the importance of physical exercise.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in sufficiently maintained premises where the childminder has taken appropriate steps to ensure the environment is a safe place in which children can play and learn. The organisation of the play environment is satisfactory, older children are able to move around freely and independently in the main playroom and younger children are given some opportunities to self select from boxes of toys in the lounge.

Children are given appropriate opportunities to learn how to stay safe whilst on outings through the childminder talking to them about road safety. Children are able to access a good range of toys and equipment and the childminder monitors younger children's choices of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. The childminder encourages children's awareness of the course of action to take in an emergency through practising the fire evacuation procedure with them.

The childminder takes appropriate steps to ensure that children are kept safe whilst in her care. For example, when she prevents a young child from walking around with a bottle in their mouth and encourages them to sit down with it instead. The childminder is aware of her responsibility towards child protection and is able to put relevant procedures into practice. However, current documentation relating to this issue is not in place; compromising children's welfare.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well settled at the childminder's house, warm relationships between the childminder and children contribute to a child's sense of belonging. Older children are provided with a satisfactory range of activities and play experiences that promote their development, such as making glass decorations and a sewing activity. Most of the play experiences available to younger children adequately meet their developmental needs. However, their development is hindered, because the childminder has a limited understanding of play experiences that effectively promote and challenge their abilities.

Children are confident and broadly content in their surroundings and play well together. The childminder has a calm and caring manner towards children and provides sufficient interaction to meet their needs. For example, as she cuddles and talks to them whilst giving them their bottle of milk. The childminder's use of praise and support builds on children's self esteem. Children are happy and settled during the day; ensuring they feel safe and secure.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has an adequate understanding of increasing children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. However, children do not have access to a suitable range of activities or resources that promotes a positive view of the wider world. The childminder uses appropriate strategies for managing children's behaviour that is appropriate to their age and stage of development; encouraging children to understand the boundaries and play together harmoniously.

Children are confident in their environment and feel safe and secure in their relationships with the childminder. Children's individual needs are discussed with parents and appropriately recorded. Discussions with parents as children begin their care enables the childminder to be aware of their specific needs to ensure appropriate care is given. The ongoing needs of children are sufficiently met through informal sharing of information on a daily basis; promoting continuity of care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

Policies and procedures are used adequately to promote the care and welfare of children and most of the documentation is in place and appropriate. However, some records for children are incomplete as written permission from parents for childminding activities has not been obtained for all of the children attending. The childminder is in breach of the regulations as set out in the National Standards because written permission is not obtained before administering medication to children; compromising their safety.

The childminder has completed the necessary background checks to ensure all adults living at the premises are suitable to do so. Overall the provision does not meet the needs of the children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection the childminder has improved hygiene levels with regard to the toileting of the pet dogs and the cleanliness of the premises; promoting the good health of children. She has increased children's awareness of fire safety through devising and practising a fire evacuation procedure. Identified safety issues within the home have been addressed in order to minimise risks to children and help to keep them safe. She has developed the range of resources available to children that promote equality of opportunity and anti discriminatory practice. However, children's access to these resources and the provision of activities that promote equal opportunities is limited and does not fully promote their awareness of diversity and the wider world.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Ofsted has received one complaint, since the last inspection relating to National Standard 1: Suitable Person. A visit was made by Ofsted to investigate the concerns. The provider was found to be complying with the National Standards and remains qualified for 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- Obtain prior written permission from parents before administering medication to children.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)