



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY103957
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 March 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Angela Hufton

<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 2002. She lives with her family in a semi-detached in a village in North Nottinghamshire. The home is close to all local amenities. The areas used by the children consist of the lounge, kitchen-diner and toilet on the ground floor. The children also have access to a rear garden for outdoor play. The family has a dog, 9 guinea pigs, 2 rabbits and a canary. The childminder is registered to care for 6 children under 8 at any one time. There are currently 7 children on roll, including children over 8, all attending on a part-time basis. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and holds a level 3 qualification in Childminding Practice.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and comfortable home, where suitable hygiene arrangements contribute to maintaining their health. Daily routines, such as children washing their hands before meals, help to minimise the spread of infection. Children are protected from any risk posed by animals. For example, the dog is regularly treated and all animal food and water bowls are inaccessible to young children. The childminder shares expectations with parents regarding the care of sick children through a detailed sickness policy, promoting the good health of all children at the setting. Suitable arrangements are in place to care for children who have a minor injury, as the childminder is trained in administering first aid and has appropriate first aid items. Most accidents are recorded, however, permissions are not in place to seek emergency medical attention in the event of children requiring further treatment. Children receive medication in accordance with their needs; detailed checking and recording procedures are in place to promote their welfare.

Children are well nourished and have meals, agreed with parents, that meet their individual needs. They enjoy healthy snacks, for example, raisins, slices of apple and a few cheese biscuits with a drink of juice or water. Drinks are regularly offered to young children to ensure they are not thirsty. Children experience activities that enable them to exercise their physical skills, such as playing on bikes or slides at the toddler group. They enjoy various play opportunities in the garden, which is thoughtfully laid out to meet children's needs. Regular walks in the local environment also support their general fitness and good health.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. It is very homely and attractive, with comfortable furniture to sit on and a table to eat at. Security measures ensure that they cannot leave the premises or garden unsupervised. Effective use of the ground floor provides sufficient safe space for children to rest and relax or move freely between play activities. Toys are placed out prior to the children arriving enabling them to make independent choices in their play. Items used by children are in good, clean and safe condition and attractively displayed to be easily and safely accessible to young children.

Children remain safe through the childminder's good 'common sense' perspective on checking for hazards and assessing risk. They learn about the importance of, for example, why they need to wear a harness in the high chair, through clear explanations from the childminder. Children are protected in the event of a fire because appropriate safety measures are in place and a detailed written evacuation plan is practised regularly with the children to ensure they are familiar with procedures. They are kept safe when walking; the childminder encourages children to wear their harness in the pushchair or hold hands. Children's welfare is

safeguarded in the event of child protection concerns because the childminder has a good understanding of current guidance and procedures to follow.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children take part in an excellent range of activities that are flexibly organised and targeted to meet their individual needs. The daily routine is very well balanced so that children have great variety to their day with time planned out of the house as well as indoor play. For example, they attend toddler sessions at a local group or story sessions at the library, which the childminder then builds on to extend each child's enjoyment and learning. In addition, rest and meal times are thoughtfully planned to meet children's developmental needs and ensure their well-being. Children are very happy and settled within the childminder's home. They benefit from a warm, friendly relationship with her, which boosts their confidence and self-esteem. This helps them to feel secure and at ease.

The childminder is extremely skilled in recognising and differentiating between the developmental stages of the children who make rapid progress because the childminder targets activities to meet each child's individual needs. Her exemplary use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and highly skilled use of observations and assessments ensures young children's potential is maximised. Children's play is enhanced through the childminder's direct involvement with them. For example, they play games together, read books and talk about the weather. The childminder consistently and appropriately extending and developing the children's ideas, observations, knowledge and understanding of the world. Children access a stimulating range of toys and activities that promote their learning and challenges them to progress. For example, a wide range of construction materials are available and there is encouragement and ample opportunity to be creative. Their imagination is fostered through dressing up, playing with model cars or role-playing e.g. 'going shopping'. The children learn to count well through every day tasks and these role-play activities. Children benefit from the childminder's exceptional ability to communicate with them at an appropriate level, extending their vocabulary at every opportunity.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children have their individual needs met because the childminder keeps very clear written records and seeks extensive information from parents to support this. All children have equal access to resources and children with additional needs receive targeted support to enable them to be fully included. Children learn about the wider world and the similarities and differences between people. They take part in a wonderful range activities, that are put in a context that has meaning to them. For example, through imaginative use of the internet the children have built a file on different aspects of children's lives around the world. This includes games played in other countries and the different kinds of sweets children may eat. This together with

play experiences linked to other aspects of diversity, such as disability or family lifestyles supports children to fully extend their awareness of others.

Children behave very well in the setting supported by the childminder's calm and positive approach. They learn right from wrong through gentle explanations from the childminder. Suitable methods for managing behaviour are clearly agreed with parents to ensure a consistent approach. All children receive high levels of praise and encouragement, in a way that is suitable for their age, effectively raising their confidence and self-esteem. Children benefit from a successful collaborative relationship the childminder has with their parents, developed through regular social occasions involving all children and parents using the provision. Comprehensive written information, including observations and assessments, is shared with parents, ensuring they are fully aware of all aspects of their child's development and how they can continue to support this at home. A highly informative portfolio contributes well to parents being included in how their child is cared for.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from high levels of support and supervision to meet their individual care and learning needs. Space is organised effectively to promote children's confidence and independence, as they move through the house playing and exploring. The garden is very well thought-out to provide children with additional learning opportunities and is organised to be safe, secure and easily supervised. Children benefit from provision that is targeted to their individual needs because the childminder continually seeks to improve the care offered and is committed to on-going training to achieve this.

Children receive care that meets their individual needs because records are well organised and shared with parents as appropriate. All regulatory records are in place, however, the attendance register does not always reflect the actual hours the children are in the care of the childminder and some permissions are not sought for specific activities. Confidentiality is maintained to ensure children's privacy. The childminder's development of comprehensive policies and procedures contributes effectively to promoting children's welfare Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last care inspection the childminder agreed to a recommendation to improve her knowledge of local child protection procedures. She now has a clear understanding. This promotes the welfare of the children in the event of child protection concerns.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints reported to Ofsted since 1st 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.

## **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):

- continue to develop record keeping including; daily registers; permissions for seeking emergency medical consent; all accidents are fully recorded; permissions for specific activities.

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)