



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY235398
<b>Inspection date</b>	01 June 2005
<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 a registered childminder since 2001. She lives with her son aged 14 years. They live in Bilston, West Midlands. There are local shops a park and school within walking distance. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is a member the National Childminding Association

## **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 regular opportunities to practice their skills of control and co-ordination through a satisfactory range of outdoor equipment. Children enjoy kicking, throwing and catching balls and develop their skills of balance through the use of a large inflatable hopper. Children have regular opportunities to use the large equipment at the local park to increase their skills of climbing which offers more challenge to help increase their confidence. Children learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care and the importance of washing their hands to help maintain good health. Children are provided with paper towels to dry their hands to prevent the spread of infection.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They help themselves to drinking water and a range of juices stored in the fridge throughout the day. The parents provide the children's packed lunches daily which the childminder stores appropriately. Children after school enjoy healthy options such as fresh fruits. The childminder takes account of the parent's wishes and the children's choices and is aware of the children's special dietary requirements although does not keep a written record of these needs.

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

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder identifies and minimises risks for children in their environment. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder gives good priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe, for example, children know they can not have access to the first floor and understand which parts of the house they can access freely. But little emphasis is placed on what to do in the event of a fire and children have not participated in fire practice procedures. The children's safety outside the home is continued through children beginning to understand about the need to stay safe when crossing the road.

Children independently select activities from a satisfactory range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare and has all the required procedures and documents in place. For example, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has recently undertaken a child protection course therefore 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 extend their language development through the childminder listening and talking to them and extending their play. They show a keen interest in books and enjoy listening to and singing along to their favourite nursery rhymes on tape. Children show good levels of concentration in their chosen activity and especially enjoy learning the letters of the alphabet through some interesting toys that maintain their interest. Overall there is a satisfactory range of toys and resources covering most areas of development. The childminder's organisation of resources does not allow for children to easily access a good range of toys throughout the day. Children increase their creativity through the regular use of crayons and pencils and the occasional use of paint. Opportunities to experience a broader range of arts and crafts and activities to develop exploration and investigation skills such as sand, water and dough are limited.

The older children after school have free choice and have opportunities to relax, watch the television, play games and enjoy outdoor play.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children increase their awareness of the local environment through regular walks to the local park and daily walks to and from school. Although children have access to some books promoting different races and cultures children are not involved in a variety of activities and opportunities to increase their understanding of diversity and other cultures.

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. Children follow their normal daily routine as discussed with their parents. The childminder uses positive strategies for managing behaviour which helps children learn to understand behaviour boundaries. Children make themselves at home and independently access drinks throughout the day and older children are encouraged to independently visit the toilet. They have time to relax as well as be active.

Children gain good levels of self-esteem and confidence through constant praise from the childminder, who encourages this through rewarding them for their achievements and tells them when they have done something well. For example, child enjoyed the attention and praise whilst posting numbers in the shape sorter. Children have a good relationship with the childminder and often show signs of affection for example, sitting on her lap for a cuddle and a sleep.

## **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 routine which is regularly adapted to meet their physical and emotional needs. The childminder effectively uses the policies and procedures to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. She 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**

Since the previous inspection, satisfactory progress has been with some areas for further improvement. There is a suitable range of toys and resources to meet the developmental needs of the children although children do not always make good use of them due to the lack of organisation and accessibility. Children have more opportunities to be involved in activities to increase their mathematical thinking and imagination and are beginning to show a spontaneous interest in numbers and enjoy small world activities to increase their imagination. Partnership with parents has improved and written permission from parents seeking emergency medical advice or treatment is obtained at the time of placement.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since April 2004 there has been one complaint in relation to standard one: organisation. A family member having regular contact with children and not being suitably vetted. OFSTED investigated the complaint and action was taken to carry out a police check on the family member who does not live on the premises but is a regular visitor. The childminder remains qualified for registration.

## **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):

- Maintain a written record of the children's special dietary requirements and food allergies

- Devise and practise an emergency escape plan from the premises
- Plan and provide a suitable range of activities and play opportunities to develop the children's exploration and investigation skills and consider the organisation of toys and resources to make them more easily accessible to the children.
- Develop resources that reflect positive images of our diverse society to promote children's awareness of differences and the world around them.

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)