



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY225277
<b>Inspection date</b>	16 February 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Yvonne Layton

<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 was registered in 2002. She lives with her husband and three teenage children. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. The garden is only used for themed activities.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding five children under five. Placements are varied. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends local parent and toddler groups and undertakes outings. The family have a cat and a dog.

The childminder is a qualified special educational needs teacher and currently supports children with special educational needs.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows effective procedures and practices which meet children's nutritional, physical and health needs.

The strong adult support and guidance helps children gain a clear understanding of hygiene and desire to become increasingly independent. Children are learning from an early age the importance of good hygiene through the childminder's consistent routines that are part of everyday practice, to which children respond naturally. Each child has their toilet bags with towel, flannel and toothbrush ensuring good hygiene and developing children's independence in personal care. Overall, children's safety is enhanced as all required medication and accident records are in place and maintained, including emergency treatment consent. However, emergency treatment consent is not taken on outings which compromises children's safety in an emergency situation.

Children have their dietary needs met because the childminder works well with parents, including ongoing discussions about individual needs. The children are developing a positive attitude to healthy eating because the childminder offers them a varied diet including organic bread, fresh fruit, vegetables and yogurt. Food items, particularly vegetables, are offered in small portions and all children are encouraged to try all foods.

Daily indoor and outdoor experiences develop children's physical control. They are able to progress in their skills by the childminder supporting and meeting individual needs to enable them to learn about themselves and their bodies through activities, for example dancing to the piano, tapes and musical instruments. Outings enhance children's physical well-being with visits to the local and country parks and woods where they are able to run and climb.

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

The provision is good.

The premises are warm, welcoming and in a good state of repair. Children benefit from the available space being well planned, with allocated space for imaginative play, a book area and a separate room for quieter play. They use quality equipment which is safe and hygienic, and appropriate to their age and stage of development.

The childminder has safety equipment and detailed procedures in place, which are shared with the parents, to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. Risks of accidental injuries to children are minimised because the childminder is vigilant and has consistent safety arrangements. She undertakes risk assessments

prior to outings and there are robust safety procedures to ensure children are kept safe in and away from the home, including when children are in wide open spaces and for themed visits to the garden pond.

Children are protected by the childminder who has an understanding of her role and responsibilities for child protection. This is supported by her child protection policy, which is shared with the parents.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy, eager to participate and relish their time in a setting which puts them first. They achieve well because the childminder is skilled and uses her good knowledge of children's development including references to early year's guidance, such as the 'Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage', to provide quality care and education.

Children's potential is fully supported and they are given stimulating challenges by the wide range of planned, focused and free choice activities. Careful consideration is given to individual needs of children when activities are presented. When undertaking a baking activity it is structured to different levels depending on the age and stage of development of the children. Babies have a wooden spoon and a dish, a younger child has pile of flour to finger play and stir and older children crack the eggs. Themes are undertaken, including a wide range of celebrations which are adapted to stimulate children's interest and enhance learning. Chinese New Year was celebrated by identifying each child's specific animal for the year of their birth. They then made animal masks for their own year, a dragon was made and a dragon dance performed. For Valentines Day children drew pictures of 'who they love'.

Children have the opportunity to experiment and develop their own play, they access toys and resources freely. Appropriate household items are well-used, for example a silver heat blanket is used in imaginative play, as a 'feely' blanket and for sound experiences. Daily routine includes times to be active and quiet times, including story time, outings and creativity sessions.

Children become confident and self-assured, working and playing effectively on their own, with others or with the childminder. Close and caring relationships with the childminder increase children's sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of self. They develop good social and communication skills as she takes time to talk and listen to them.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a very good awareness of children's individual needs and children are respected as individuals. Their ideas and choices are valued. Equipment and resources meet the needs of individual children and reflect diversity. Many

international festivals, and festivals from other faiths, are celebrated, beginning to raise children's awareness of the wider world. The professional training and strong commitment of the childminder ensures children with special educational needs are well supported to develop their learning and enhance their enjoyment.

Children benefit from the sensitive manner adopted by the childminder to manage children's behaviour. They profit from clear ground rules established by the childminder as she finely balances the demands and care needs of the children to ensure that all their individuality is respected.

A positive partnership between the childminder and parents contributes to children's well-being. Parents receive detailed written and verbal information that ensures they are fully informed of their child's day and progress. As well as informal daily discussions a formal review meeting is held with parents to discuss the placement, review contracts and discuss issues relating to the care and learning of their child. Each parent has access to an information file, written policies and children's individual files. However, to ensure parents receive correct information the details of the registration authority within the complaints policy requires amending.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The premises are well organised and space is used to maximise play opportunities for children. Children's care and welfare is enhanced by the childminder's good understanding of children's needs and her efficient and effective organisation skills. The care, welfare and development of the children benefits from the childminder's clear knowledge of her role and responsibilities.

Children's safety and well-being benefit from the professional presentation of detailed policies, procedures and information for parents. All required documentation is in place. Documentation is overall maintained correctly and the childminder has good awareness of confidentiality. Information is regularly exchanged with parents about the setting and their child's daily activities contributing to continuity in the children's care.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was recommended to; seek written permission from parents regarding seeking medical advice and treatment and to develop knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures.

Children's safety and welfare is protected as the childminder has consent for seeking medical advice and treatment for each child. She has developed her understanding of child protection by undertaking a training course, obtaining local authority procedures and the current child protection guidance.

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

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.

There has been no complaints made to Ofsted since 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 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):

- ensure children's safety on outings is consistently promoted with regard to the written permission for seeking emergency treatment being immediately available
- ensure the complaints procedure includes Ofsted as the registering authority.

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)