



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	125869
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 April 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Claire, Alexandra Parnell
<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 1988.

She lives with her husband and two teenage sons.

The premise is within walking distance to bus routes, schools, play groups, carer and toddler groups, library, leisure centre, shops and park. The whole of the ground floor, toilet and garden is used for minding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. Children also have access to the front of the house for outside play.

The family have three cats, guinea pigs, rabbits and fish.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children under 8 years at any one time. The childminder currently cares for a total of 15 children, 9 of which are under 8 years of age, all are cared for on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and works closely with other local childminders.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children learn about the importance of personal hygiene because the childminder constantly reminds children of the need to wash hands before eating and after outside play, toileting and handling animals. Children are protected from cross infection of germs through clear procedures for nappy changing and food preparation. Children take themselves to the toilet, developing their self help skills.

Children's ongoing health needs are promoted through clear and thorough accident and medication documentation, as well as the childminder's up to date first aid training.

Children are introduced to a good range of healthy meals, snacks and drinks. The childminder uses parental information and discussion with children to offer their preferences, as well as meeting their dietary requirements. Children are encouraged to try new foods and tastes to enhance their diet and range of foods. Children's changing dietary needs are discussed and negotiated with parents, especially with regard to weaning babies, to offer continuity of care.

Children have regular opportunities to take part in rigorous physical activities. They are encouraged to walk to and from school as part of their daily routine and to get plenty of fresh air to enhance their overall well being. Children are encouraged to use new and challenging equipment in local play area to extend their physical skills and abilities. Babies are actively encouraged, through general play, to crawl, stand and walk gradually extending their natural development.

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

The provision is good.

Children have access to a safe and secure environment, giving them adequate space to play. Clear procedures are in place and regularly carried out to ensure children are evacuated from the house in case of an emergency. Children do not have unsupervised access to the childminder's garden but are able to play freely to the front of the house in a safe and well supervised environment. Children learn about keeping each other, as well as themselves, safe through clear and thorough explanations. Children adhere to rules when taking walks to local woods, that have been agreed by the childminder and the children, enhancing their understanding of safety. The childminder promotes the security of the children by using effective systems to warn of people leaving or entering the premises.

Children learn to use equipment safely and to understand why stair gates are in place to protect younger children. Children learn about what activities are appropriate for ages of children, particularly when involving small pieces. Toys and equipment are regularly washed and maintained to further enhance children's safety.

The childminder has consent to transport children in her car. Procedures are in place to inform parents if children are to be taken on public transport. Therefore enhancing children's safe transportation. Children actively learn about car and road safety because the childminder gives clear explanations and discusses safety issues with the children. Children hold hands or the pushchair when out walking and babies are strapped appropriately into the pushchair. Children also have access to appropriately checked car seats.

Children's welfare is promoted because the childminder has a good understanding of child protection procedures as she has attended recent and up to date training. She has access to relevant documentation and information to support children's protection from harm.

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

The provision is good.

Children have access to a good range of activities for all ages and stages of development. They can help themselves to floor level toys and resources and confidently ask the childminder to access other resources out of reach. Children have regular opportunities to be creative and imaginative using paints and messy activities, enhancing their creative flair.

Children's development is monitored carefully by the childminder, who has a clear understanding of how children develop. However, the childminder does not use a system to promote the use of the Birth to three matters framework to show how children are developing and how to provide for their next stages of development.

Children are actively encouraged to play with others as well as the childminder. Children learn to choose and lead their play with enthusiasm. They regularly invite the childminder to play who extends their thinking and learning through challenging and relevant questions. The childminder is very aware of what each child likes to play with, using this to initiate children's interest in play, then providing other resources to extend this interest.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are catered for well because the childminder uses relevant information about the children to identify how to meet these needs. Children are valued as individuals by the childminder knowing their characters, personalities, likes and dislikes. Children positively learn about people's differences through an adequate range of resources portraying positive images of today's society.

Children with special needs are offered inclusive care, ensuring that they have equal participation in all activities. The childminder uses her past experiences, knowledge and information from parents and other professional bodies to offer children individual packages of care according to their needs.

Children behave well in the childminder's care due to her positive management of behaviour. Children are polite and are reminded to say please and thank you, as well as learning to play socially by sharing and taking turns. The childminder has clear strategies agreed with parents

to enhance children's positive behaviour and to aid their understanding of what is acceptable and not acceptable behaviour.

Parents have access to a good range of information about the childminder's service, including information about her family, policies and procedures. Therefore parents are fully aware of the type of care that their children are receiving. Parents receive verbal and, if required, written feedback about their child's day, including toileting, feeds, meals, events, activities and development. The childminder promotes the sharing of developmental information for continuity of care. However, parents are not aware of who to contact if they have a concern about their child's care.

Parents are kept fully informed of future events and arrangements for their children, including consent for emergency cover by another childminder.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder provides a warm and welcoming environment for children, enhancing their confidence to settle quickly into the setting and develop their independence in choosing activities and resources. Children are content and familiar with their surroundings and routine due to the childminder's organisation of her day to meet all children's needs. The childminder cares for a large group of children, but is very aware of her limitations within her registration conditions.

Children are cared for by a childminder who has relevant clearance and a clear understanding about supervising children when in contact with un-vetted persons.

Documentation is available, complete and stored safely and confidentially. The children's records are regularly updated to ensure that the childminder has relevant information about them.

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

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the childminder's last inspection, she was given two recommendations to improve the quality of childcare.

The first was to develop the knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. The childminder has since attended child protection training and has a clear understanding of the relevant paths to follow if concerns arise.

The second was to develop the knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities for children. The childminder demonstrates her understanding clearly by knowing each child's background well and using relevant information to offer relevant care. Children have access to a range of resources that portray positive images of today's society, therefore children positively identify with people's differences.

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

There have been no 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.

### **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):

- Produce a complaints procedure and make this available to parents
- develop systems to promote the use of Birth to Three Matters framework to enhance young children's development

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)