



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	135547
<b>Inspection date</b>	02 February 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Carolyn Mary Hasler
<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 registered since 1996. She lives with her husband and daughter aged seventeen years old. They live in a house situated in a residential area close to local amenities which they walk to daily such as parks, schools and shops. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder currently has six children on roll. The childminder attends various local child orientated groups and holds first aid and food hygiene certificates.

The family have a dog, chinchilla and tortoise.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health is well maintained, they have a good role model to follow. The premises are kept clean and tidy and the childminder has good systems in place to ensure hygiene is maintained. For example toys and play resources are cleaned once a fortnight, the toilets and surfaces are cleaned and floors are vacuumed daily. There is a no shoe policy in the house. The childminder records health information and keeps records on accidents and administration of medication. Children can access first aid in an emergency, the childminder holds a first aid certificate. Children are protected from cross infection because the childminder has a verbal sickness policy ensuring that sick children are cared for at home away from other minded children. Children learn about their own hygiene and young children's independence is encouraged while learning new toileting skills. All children are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times of the day such as before and after eating and after going to the toilet. Young children's emotional needs are met, the childminder knows children's routines well and is attentive, recognising when children are tired or hungry.

All children access fresh air and exercise daily, they walk to and from school and have access to the rear garden. Younger children who spend a great proportion of their day with the childminder enjoy attending toddlers. They have opportunities to play with wheeled push along toys and climb on climbing equipment. The childminder says that they go to the park regularly to walk the dog and visit the play ground area.

Children have access to drinks throughout the day. Although parents supply their children's meals, the childminder has a food hygiene certificate and provides children with additional snacks. However, children do not always receive sufficient messages about how to eat healthily because snacks are not always healthy.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into the childminder's home because they are greeted upon their arrival and can access a wide variety of colourful and interesting play resources which are displayed at floor level. Children are comfortable in their environment, they are familiar with the layout and move around without restriction on the lower level of the childminder's home. Children can access the floor to play but also have access to a table top for art and craft activities and completing homework. There are comfortable places to stop and rest and there is ample room for more boisterous play. The premises are clean and brightly painted, there are good sources of natural light and the temperature is comfortable and can be adjusted easily.

Children access a wide variety of play resources which are of good quality, well maintained and appropriate to the ages of children cared for. The childminder has ensured that she has appropriate safety equipment in place and furniture and equipment such as potties and eating and drinking equipment is also appropriate to children cared for.

Children are kept safe because the childminder takes appropriate measures to ensure that the premises are safe. For example, the childminder has smoke detectors in working order on each level of the premises and a fire blanket has been mounted in the kitchen close to the cooker. She has a verbal fire evacuation procedure in place. The childminder prevents children from accessing areas of the premises not used for minding and ensures that the premises are safe before children arrive. She does not drive, however she ensures that permission is sought to take children on local transport. Children learn about keeping themselves safe because the childminder sets good examples and talks to children about their safety. For example children are made aware of kitchen safety, they are encouraged not to touch electrical sockets and to play safely. They learn basic road craft skills while on outings or while walking to and from school.

The childminder's knowledge and understanding of how to safeguard children is satisfactory. She lacks knowledge of the different areas of abuse but is able to demonstrate a sound knowledge of signs and symptoms and is aware that records are important for accuracy and informing the appropriate professional bodies. The childminder has all the appropriate documentation to follow in the event that she has safeguarding concerns. As a result children are safeguarded.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy themselves at the childminder's home, they enter enthusiastically helping themselves to play resources which are easily accessible. Children are independent in their play but are confident enough to approach the childminder if they need her attention. Young children's language development is encouraged through learning how to hold a conversation and talking about objects, pictures and play resources. They enjoy looking at books and cuddling up to the childminder for stories. Children are encouraged to bring favourite things from home such as DVDs and have opportunities to enjoy them in the background while they play. Children demonstrate enquiring minds as they explore the play equipment around them, younger children enjoy sorting through boxes of resources and completing simple puzzles, they play with small world equipment and talk about the different caricatures, they make tea and cook in the play kitchen. Children have opportunities to be creative, the childminder says that when older children come in from school they help themselves from the variety of art and craft resources provided. The childminder says all children are co operative in their play, they get on well with each other.

Daily verbal information is shared with parents regarding their children. Routine activities are planned into the children's week such as going to toddlers or visiting the park where younger children learn to socialise with other children their own age.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about their own and others' cultures and lifestyles because they have lots of opportunities to meet and mix with other people. Older children attend school and younger

children are established at local toddler groups. Children talk about project work and themes are carried through while attending the childminder's home. The childminder has ensured that children have lots of opportunities to see and play with resources which reflect different cultures, disabilities, gender issues and lifestyles. They have a variety of books, dressing up costumes and small world play equipment which encourages children to explore and be inquisitive. Children explore their local environment when they go for walks with the dog or travel on local transport facilities.

The childminder does not currently care for any children with additional needs. However, she demonstrates her willingness to offer her care service on an equal basis and would ensure that she risk assesses her home and her own ability carefully before entering into a care arrangement. The childminder says that she would work in partnership with parents and carers and other professional bodies ensuring relevant information is collected on the child; providing children with opportunities to meet their full potential.

Children play happily and are relaxed while in the childminder's home. Younger children build positive relationships with the childminder because they receive one to one attention. The childminder informs that all children get on well together, that children are learning to share and take turns. If children squabble they learn how to take responsibility for their own actions and apologies. Arguments or challenging behaviour are resolved through discussion. Children receive lots of encouragement and praise for small achievements and they respond positively. The childminder gives parents written information on how she manages behaviour and invites their views.

Children benefit when relationships between the childminder and parents are positive. New parents receive written information about the childminder's service and information is collected from parents which help the childminder to offer children a supportive service. She meets and talks to parents daily. However, the childminder does not initiate a written contractual agreement with parents and although there is a complaints policy and system to record complaints this is not in line with current requirements.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's safety and wellbeing is maintained because the childminder ensures that all adults that have contact with children are suitable to do so. They have all completed initial vetting procedures and work in partnership with Ofsted to ensure that vetting procedures are maintained. The childminder has completed pre transitional training on childcare run by her local authority. In addition she has a current first aid certificate and food hygiene certificate. The organisation of the premises and resources are met. Children can access play resources independently and the environment is clean and well maintained. On the whole the organisation of health and safety is satisfactory, although some aspects need re-addressing. Children are learning about personal hygiene and how to keep safe. Children contribute positively to their community, they are well behaved and co-operate with each other.

The organisation of paper work is satisfactory. All documentation is made available for inspection and confidential records are stored away securely. Parents have a clear view of the registration document and the childminder informs that she works within her conditions of registration.

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

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to keep written records with regard to administration of medication. The childminder keeps a record of all medication administered to children and ensured that it is signed by parents. This means that children's health is maintained.

The childminder was also asked to develop her knowledge and understanding of regulations to notify Ofsted of serious injuries, death and infectious communicable diseases. The childminder has made contact with her early years network who have supplied her with information on infectious and communicable diseases. Through discussion the childminder was able to demonstrate her understanding of her responsibility to notify Ofsted of any significant event. This ensures that children's health is maintained.

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. 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 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):

- develop knowledge and understanding of how to safeguard children
- devise a written agreement with parents which sets out business arrangements and ensure that parents have sufficient information to use if they wish to make a formal complaint
- inform all parents about agreements with Ofsted with regard to keeping children safe

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)