



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY314717
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 February 2007
<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 2005 and moved to her current home in 2006. She lives with her husband and pre-school child in a detached house in an area close to Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. Minded children have access to all rooms on the ground floor with sleep and bathroom facilities provided in this area. Children may also use bathroom facilities on the first floor. The home is close to all local amenities including parks and schools. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for five children under eight at any one time and currently cares for six children, all on a part-time basis including a child over eight. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and attends local group meetings. She holds an early years qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's good health is well promoted through the childminder's clear explanations as to the importance of following good hygiene routines. The childminder is a good role model for children as they watch her washing her hands at regular times and before or after different activities encouraging them to follow her example. The children and childminder wear aprons for baking activities and the children learn why this is important. Children each have their own towels, flannels and clean bedding which limits the risk of cross-infection. Through her portfolio, sickness policy and discussions, parents are aware of when their child will not be able to attend and that the reason for this is to limit the risk to other children. Should a child become ill whilst in her care the childminder first of all reassures the child, ensures they are comfortable and then contacts parents or carers to collect them. In the event of an accident the childminder is able to respond quickly because she has undertaken first aid training, has a well stocked first aid box and the necessary written permission from parents to obtain emergency medical treatment.

Children enjoy a wide range of nutritious and healthy meals, for example, enchiladas and are fully involved in helping to prepare meals promoting their understanding of making healthy choices. They particularly enjoy making spaghetti bolognese and helping to slice the mushrooms. The childminder provides an example menu in her portfolio which has regard to good nutrition. Children have a healthy selection of snacks such as fruit, including fresh pineapple and easily accessible drinks ensuring they do not become thirsty. The childminder has undertaken additional training to ensure children with particularly dietary requirements have their needs met.

Children benefit from being out in the fresh air on a regular basis and have frequent visits to the local park where they play on the large equipment as well as kicking and throwing balls. Through activities such as climbing, balancing, kicking and playing on roundabouts they are developing their large muscles and co-ordination. They build up their stamina and awareness of exercise for their health through planned walks out including to Vicar's Water or Pleasley Vale.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure, warm and welcoming home where they explore and play in complete safety. Gates are used very effectively to ensure children do not access the stairs or the kitchen unsupervised and safety equipment such as door closures are used to ensure children are protected from trapping their fingers. Children play in the lounge, play room, conservatory or hall allowing the childminder to keep them in her sight at all times which ensures their welfare is soundly promoted. Activities that involve both older and younger children are carefully monitored to enable all to play in safety. The childminder talks to children and explains that they need to be careful with boisterous play and supports them to learn about road safety. Children's safety is further promoted because the childminder undertakes regular risk assessments which involves such things as the weekly checking and recording of the suitability

of the smoke alarms, fire blanket and first aid kit. All outer doors are kept locked to prevent children from leaving the premises unaccompanied, however the childminder is fully aware of the importance for quick evacuation in the case of an emergency and has taken all necessary steps to ensure this can be completed quickly and safely.

Children make their own selections from a very good range of easily accessible resources that the childminder has checked for safety. Their welfare is extremely well promoted by the good use of policies and procedures. The childminder is knowledgeable about child protection procedures, is aware of signs of abuse and knows who to contact to ensure that children's welfare and safety are promoted. She explains to parents her role and responsibility in this area.

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

The provision is good.

Children receive very good levels of adult support which encourages them to initiate their own activities and develop confidence. They have access to a good range of resources which promote learning and play, and through the use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework the childminder is able to effectively promote children's learning. She uses her knowledge and understanding of child development to adapt activities to suit individual children. Children take part in a variety of pastimes such as looking at books, singing, outdoor play, baking and imaginative play which aid their development in all areas. Younger children benefit from attending toddler groups that increase their social and interactive skills. Children receive lots of praise for achievements which builds their self-esteem, for example when completing jigsaw puzzles or making up a train track. The childminder and the children have developed warm relationships, with children receiving lots of cuddles enabling them to feel secure and loved. The childminder listens and talks to the children and values what they say. She is skilled at asking open ended questions which require some thought from the children before they can respond. The childminder is effective in overall planning of activities to meet children's developmental needs and has begun to link this to their next steps in learning, however this is not yet fully developed to ensure all that each child's progress is maximised.

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

The provision is good.

Children feel valued and respected because the childminder ensures that she is aware of their individual needs and is able to meet these consistently. She considers each child to be special and gathers as much information from parents about their needs prior to the start of the childminding arrangement. Children are learning about differences and individuality through general play and through discussion which promotes positive images of people within our society. The childminder has experience of caring for children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and she has a policy and procedure in place which clearly demonstrates her commitment to consider each child and make decisions on an individual basis as to how she can provide the care needed.

Relationships with parents are both professional and friendly. Through daily sharing of information, both written and verbal, and discussion about how the child has been and what they have been doing, the childminder ensures they are kept fully aware of the level of care their child receives. The children's daily routine is well balanced and allows time for meals, rest, quiet and active play. Their social skills are developing and relationships forming through the opportunities provided for meeting other children and adults. Children play well together and are learning about sharing and turn taking. Their behaviour is very good and the childminder continually uses praise and encouragement to enable children to feel confident and gain a feeling of self-worth. Children have consistent boundaries and are always given clear explanations by the childminder, enabling them to think about their behaviour and start to take responsibility for themselves.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment where they feel safe and relaxed, knowing that their needs will be met. The varying daily requirements of all children are very well met by the childminder who confidently adapts the routine and activity plans to suit individual children. The children are confident and can therefore initiate their own play and learning, knowing that the childminder will always be there to offer support. Because of the low numbers of children in her care the childminder gives children one to one attention which especially with younger children builds their self confidence and helps them feel secure.

Children benefit because the childminder regularly attends further training to improve her practice including working towards a qualification in early years. The children's safety and welfare are well promoted as the childminder has comprehensive paperwork in place and there are clear written policies and procedures. All the required documentation is well maintained and held with regard to confidentiality. Children's continued welfare is promoted because the childminder stays up to date with changes to ensure regulations and conditions of registration are complied with. Overall, children's needs are met.

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

Not applicable.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration 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 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 the use of planning and observations to more clearly identify children's next steps in learning and 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)