



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	224253
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 June 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Hazel Christine White
<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 2000. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 11 and 13 years. They live in a terraced house in the Longford Village area of Coventry. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to a local primary school to take and collect children. The childminder attends a local parent and toddler group.

The family have a cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and holds an early years qualification to level 3. She is registered to care for six children at anyone time and is currently minding two under the age of five years on a part time basis.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children engage in regular activities which contribute to their physical development. They enjoy outdoor play and have opportunities to use climbing equipment and play ball games. Children have planted and dug in the garden. They are active and walking is encouraged, however the importance of being active and the effects that exercise has on the body is not developed.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of hygiene and personal care. They benefit from clear hand washing and toilet training routines. Toys and equipment are cleaned periodically to reduced the risk of infection.

Children enjoy mealtimes in a relaxed environment. They have hot and cold snacks which take into account their specific dietary requirements. Children sit at the table when they are eating and mealtimes are not rushed. Water is always available and children help themselves throughout the day.

Children follow a daily routine which allows them to have a quiet time or sleep that reflects their individual requirements.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. They are able to move freely around the house and garden because potential hazards have been minimised by the use of safety equipment. Resources are in excellent condition and age and stage appropriate. They are stored at a low level so children can freely and safely access them. Good organisation and labelling of storage boxes enables children to easily identify toys and equipment. Activities which require adult supervision are kept on higher shelves to minimise the risk to children.

Children are closely supervised both indoors and outside and areas are safe and secure. Younger children are learning the importance of staying safe because of the childminders consistent approach to reinforcing rules and boundaries. Older children are involved in discussions about safety and understand how to keep safe both in the home and when out and about. Children confidentially cross the road safely when walking to school and are clear of the procedure when using parks and playgrounds.

Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's good understanding of her role and responsibilities in child protection.

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

The provision is good.

Children are confident, happy and busy. They settle well in the house and have developed good relationships with the childminder and her family. Children are cared for in a homely environment and follow familiar daily routines. They move freely around the home and select from resources independently. Children benefit from the childminders knowledge of child development and access a wide range of exciting, stimulating activities which contribute to their learning. Children are cared for as individuals with different needs. Activities are linked to things that are happening in the community such as special days and events and relate to the children's specific interests. Children frequently visit the local park, places of interest and are learning about wildlife in the canal when they go for walks.

Children show enjoyment as they play with creative materials and are beginning to make recognisable models and shapes from play dough. The childminder interacts with children continually, sharing ideas and extending vocabulary by introducing and repeating new words. Children enjoy exploring and are confident learners. They play with the full range of resources and spend their time purposefully. Children are learning about colours, shapes, letters and numbers in everyday situations and by playing games with the childminders support. The childminder responds to the children's particular interests and plans a purposeful range of activities with this in mind.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued, respected individuals who receive individual care according to their needs. They have equal access to a good range of resources and activities which help them appreciate the wider world by showing positive images of a variety of people in society. Children are developing a positive attitude towards others by the use of everyday experiences to stimulate discussion. They have celebrated multi-cultural festivals and have visited shops which sell produce from other countries. Children of all abilities play alongside one another and are well supported.

Children have developed a strong relationship with the childminder and show care and concern for each other. The childminder uses positive strategies for managing behaviour. Children have clear guidelines and boundaries which help them understand right and wrong. They play co-operatively together and are responsive to praise and encouragement.

Children are relaxed and confident in deciding what to do, younger children with the support of the childminder. They move freely around the home and separate well from their parents. Children benefit from two way sharing of information. Parents are encouraged to regularly share information about their needs, interests and experiences to ensure continuity of care.

## Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are comfortable and settled in a well organised homely environment. They have a good balance of planned activities and free play. Children explore readily accessible toys and resources which are stimulating and contribute to their learning. Time is organised well to meet the individual needs of the varied age group. Information exchanged and regular discussions with parents help to promote the welfare and care of the children. Records are kept up to date and securely stored. Overall the childminder meets the needs of the children she cares for.

## Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to continue to develop resources which reflected disability in a positive way. Some books have been purchased which contain positive images of people with varying needs. Everyday experiences and appropriate television programmes help children to appreciate and value others similarities and differences.

## Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

## 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):

- increase children's knowledge of the effects exercise has on the body and why it is important to be active.

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)