



Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** 124034  
**Inspection date** 17 June 2005  
**Inspector** Kerry Davey

**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** 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 1994. She lives with her husband, two adult children and one child aged 13. They live in a house in Cheshunt close to the station, shops and Lea Valley Park. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding with the exception of the downstairs bedroom. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler

group. The family has a pet lizard and tropical fish, children do not have access.

The childminder welcomes children with special educational needs.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health and helps them to develop control of their bodies such as music and dancing, long walks, visits to the park, outdoor play in the garden and use of various wheeled toys. Toddlers gain physical skills and confidence as they move around the home with encouragement from the childminder.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care through daily routines, as they wash their hands, brush their teeth and use individual flannels and towels. They stay healthy because the childminder follows clear procedures to prevent the spread of infection. Children are able to eat, rest and sleep following their own daily routines and therefore their individual needs are catered for.

Children benefit from a healthy diet which takes into account their dietary needs and parent's wishes. They are introduced to different foods to encourage new tastes and extend their knowledge and experiences. Babies and toddlers are helped to develop their independence as they begin to feed themselves with finger foods.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, well organised home where risks are minimised and various precautions are in place to protect them. For example, hazardous materials are stored in locked cupboards, the fire is guarded, sockets are protected and fire fighting equipment has been provided. Children are therefore able to move around freely and independently. There is a fully secure outdoor area where children can play without risk.

Children use a range of safe, good quality resources which are well maintained, age appropriate and provide sufficient challenge. They are able to select and access the resources without risk as they are well organised and stored at low level.

Children learn to keep themselves safe as they discuss hazards such as choking, fire safety and identify damaged toys inside the home. They are introduced to road safety, through discussion and as they practise crossing the road and going to the lollipop man during walks in the local environment.

Children are well protected as the childminder ensures close supervision and that they are not left alone with anybody who has not been vetted. The childminder has a

secure understanding of child protection procedures however, she does not have the Local Authority ACPC procedures and this could impact on her referral procedures if she had cause for concern in the future.

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

The provision is good.

Children are settled, very confident and make themselves at home. They enjoy freely exploring the indoor environment and are becoming independent as they choose between a variety of toys, books and activities which appeal to all ages.

Children are beginning to gain social skills as they learn to play together, share and take turns. They meet other children as they visit another childminder and attend toddler group. Children learn about every day experiences first hand as they help fold and peg out the washing, sort vegetables at the shops and help with the care of younger children.

Children experience a varied range of stimulating activities which contribute to their development inside and outside the home. For example, they learn to play noughts and crosses, care for dolls, play doctors and nurses and use games and puzzles. They enjoy the local environment and outdoors generally, developing their physical skills as they use climbing equipment on outings to the park, go for walks, feed the ducks and have tea parties in the garden. They gain a knowledge of the outside world as they watch birds and discuss various topics such as, nocturnal animals and the ages of trees.

Children participate in fun activities to develop their creative skills, such as, leaf prints, making snow flakes, collage, painting, play dough music and dancing.

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

The provision is good.

Children's awareness of diversity in the community is increased through the resources available, informal discussion and outings within the local community. This helps them to develop a positive attitude towards others. They are valued and respected as individuals. For example, the childminder knows the children well, she adapts activities to accommodate individual needs and divides her time fairly between them.

Children benefit from a positive partnership with parents. They share verbal and some written information about the children, their activities and foods eaten. Children settle well and the childminder works closely with parents to ensure home routines are followed.

Children's behaviour is good. They develop self-esteem and respond well to the childminder's expectations, they become familiar with safe boundaries as methods of distraction and praise are used to manage behaviour.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home and at ease in the calm, relaxed environment. Their needs are met through effective organisation. Children are confident to move around and explore as they play. They are able to enjoy a varied range of play resources to extend their learning.

All required documentation is in place and maintained confidentiality, this ensures that the childminder is fully informed and able to meet children's needs. However, the childminder has not carried out any recent training in order to develop her skills further and keep informed of up to date practices.

The childminder and other household members have undergone appropriate vetting processes to ensure children are protected.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to develop her knowledge of child protection issues, provide resources to promote equality of opportunity, ensure that low level glass and the garden pond do not pose a hazard to children and to keep Ofsted informed of all significant changes of circumstances.

There have been not further changes to circumstances. The childminder has developed her knowledge of child protection, she has provided a varied range of books to promote equality opportunity, glass has been covered with safety film. Children do not have unsupervised access to the pond in the front garden, they use the rear garden to play and to exit the premises.

## **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.
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<b>WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?</b>
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### **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):

- have regard to the Local Authority ACPC procedures
- consider further training to develop your childminding practice.

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)