

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 223403  
**Inspection date** 16 August 2007  
**Inspector** Josephine Mary Hammick

**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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2000. She lives with her husband and children aged seventeen and three years in Leominster in Herefordshire. The whole of the ground floor and one first floor bedroom and bathroom are used for childminding. The childminder walks to local schools and groups to take and collect children.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding three on a part-time basis. The family has two dogs, two cats and guinea pigs.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a warm and welcoming home. They learn about the importance of good hygiene and personal care through the daily routine and have a developing understanding of why they must wash their hands before meals, after using the toilet or playing outside. Documentation is well maintained regarding the administration of medication and recording of accidents. A well stocked first aid box is available to ensure children's well-being is safeguarded in the event of an accident.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Although they do not have access to an enclosed garden, they benefit from regular walks and visits to parks, woods and play areas where they extend their physical skills by playing on large equipment suitable for their age and stage of development. The children enjoy being in the fresh air and being able to stretch, run and let off steam.

Children benefit from the childminder providing nutritious and healthy food and drink. Meals provided are low in sugar, salt and fat. They are freshly prepared using fresh fruit, vegetables, pasta or rice, and are inviting to eat. The childminder provides snacks mid-morning and afternoon, and a cooked light lunch at mid-day. Children can access drinks freely at any time.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for in a warm and friendly environment. The home is secure and provides the children with sufficient space to play, rest and eat. Children are generally safe within their environment because most risks have been identified and appropriate safety measures put in place, including stair gates, socket covers and fire guard. However, cleaning materials in the upstairs toilet are accessible to children and pose a risk to their safety.

The children have access to a developing and suitable range of toys and equipment. They are interested in and stimulated by what is available to them. However, the childminder has few resources and activities to promote inclusive play. Therefore, opportunities for the children to gain an understanding of diversity is limited, the toys and resources are in good condition and they are kept clean and hygienic for the children to use. Babies benefit from fresh bedding in their cot and close supervision supported by the use of a monitor whilst asleep. The children are learning to keep themselves safe through everyday activities and gentle reminders from the childminder, for example, not to run or push inside the house.

Children are well protected because the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection procedures and is aware of her role and responsibility to protect children in her care. Parents are made aware of these procedures so that they know the action she will take if she has any concerns about their children.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are provided with a range of activities and resources that are age-appropriate and stimulate all areas of development. They have fun and are challenged by the activities available

to them. The children are happy, settled and comfortable in their environment and confidently seek the support of the childminder for comfort and cuddles. They benefit from the childminder's caring approach to their care and her interaction and involvement in activities. For example, the children settle down with the childminder and enjoy playing a game of ducks on the pond. They join in with enthusiasm, name the shapes and colours, laugh and are very proud when they are praised for their accomplishments. The childminder asks questions, and uses her tone of voice to raise curiosity whilst encouraging the children to think and problem-solve. She praises the children in order to promote learning and raise self-esteem.

Children are well supported in their play which allows them to take part in games and activities at their own level of development. Their physical and emotional needs are recognised and responded to immediately, for example, the childminder knows their routines well, notices when they are getting tired, organises activities around their needs and settles them down to rest when they are tired and becoming irritable. As a result children develop close relationships and a sense of trust.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and are happy and settled in the childminder's care. The children's needs are met because the childminder has an understanding of the care that they require. The childminder seeks additional advice and support in order to meet the requirements of children with learning difficulties or disabilities. Children's access to opportunities to gain a positive view of diversity, and to increase their understanding of other cultures is limited. Children's knowledge and understanding of the wider world is therefore compromised.

The children are well behaved and are learning to play together. A consistent approach to behaviour management ensures children know what is expected of them, whilst praise and support give them confidence to try new things and help to develop self-esteem.

The parents and the childminder have formed sound working relationships. Daily verbal exchanges of information ensure that parents are kept informed about their child's welfare, routine and the service provided. Children are cared for in accordance with their parents' wishes.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children benefit from being cared for in an organised environment. They are able to move freely and choose toys and activities from the wide range available to them. The children have good access to their playthings which are stored attractively for easy access. The home is well equipped and child-friendly, while the daily routine is flexible to meet the individual needs of the children.

Children benefit from the childminder extending and updating her knowledge by accessing workshops and training on a regular basis. All the required documentation which contributes to the children's health, safety and well-being is in place. Records are well maintained, effectively organised and carefully stored.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

Following the last inspection the provider was required to: provide parents with information of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint, and to keep a record of complaints made by parents which they can see on request. Since then the childminder has written a full complaints policy which contains the address and telephone number of Ofsted, and has systems in place for recording complaints. Parents are now fully informed to enable all to work together to support the children's well-being.

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider to take actions 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):

- increase equipment and resources to promote positive images of race, culture and disability
- ensure that children's access to cleaning materials is prevented; this particularly refers to bleach beside the upstairs toilet
- develop knowledge and understanding of diversity; this particularly refers to race and culture.

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)