

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY279307
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 September 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Dianne Andrews
<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 was registered in 2004. She lives with her partner and three children in the town of Oswestry. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for up to six children aged under eight years and is currently minding five pre-school aged children, on a part-time basis. The childminder can access the local school to take and collect children.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's understanding of healthy eating is promoted well by the childminder who plans activities that develop their enjoyment of food such as their involvement in the preparation of fruit for snack time. They eat their meals, which are made from locally sourced produce wherever

possible, while benefiting from the welcoming eating area, where the many posters promoting healthy food choices are displayed for the children to see. The childminder collects information on allergies and knows the children well, which ensures food is safe and suitable. Drinks are freely available so children are well-hydrated throughout the day.

Children show a developing awareness of good hygiene, toddlers are helped to wash their hands before meals and after outdoor play, which they do with much enthusiasm while playing in the water. The childminder's home is clean and well-maintained and she involves children in the daily routines such as tidying away so they help to keep their play space clean and hygienic. Effective recording of accidents and clear written policies on medication, illness and exclusion periods ensure parents are well-informed about their children's health and well-being.

Children have good opportunities to participate in active play. They enjoy regular visits to local leisure facilities and parks where they make use of the wide open spaces and larger equipment to help develop their skills. They regularly play in the garden and go for walks to give them an understanding of the importance of healthy living.

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

The provision is good.

Children play and move around the premises freely and independently. They choose toys and activities for themselves from those set out on the floors and in toy boxes around the playrooms, this enables them to effectively develop their own play. There is a wide range of indoor play materials, which are of a good quality and well maintained, they are very appropriate for children's age and stage of development, providing well for their play preferences and needs. The garden, although not as welcoming, is safe and enclosed and children spend a lot of time playing there.

The risk to children of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder supervises their play and has taken necessary steps to reduce hazards. For instance, risk assessments are completed on the premises and daily checks prepare the indoor area well for the children's arrival. To further ensure children's well-being adults do not have hot drinks in the setting and children do not eat while in the car, to prevent accidents happening. Children learn about keeping themselves safe through discussions about safety and the regular practising of the emergency evacuation plan.

Children are effectively safeguarded because the childminder clearly understands her role in child protection and is fully aware of the procedures to follow should a concern arise. Written policies and procedures in place give clear guidance and are shared with parents and carers.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children have many opportunities to develop their ideas and interests and show they thoroughly enjoy their time with the childminder. They are happy and well settled and have excellent relationships with the childminder who is sensitive and caring towards them. High levels of self-esteem and confidence enable children to express themselves and they readily contribute their ideas for activities. Resources are well organised, in the indoor environment, so that children self-select with ease, this allows them to develop and extend their ideas and interests freely. The childminder is alert and supervises the children's activities well, allowing them

sufficient space to negotiate and make their own decisions, which means children develop good coping strategies. They frequently ask questions and build on what they already know.

The childminder is very skilled at adapting activities so that all the children can participate, for example, while playing in the sand pit the baby is supported to sit on the edge and is able to feel the sand through his toes, while the older child digs and builds, giggling as she shares the experience with the childminder. A mint leaf from the adjacent flower bed is offered to the children in turn to smell and, where applicable, to describe. This helps to further develop sensory skills. She uses the 'Birth to three matters' framework extremely effectively, linking activities to the skills and competences, to involve children and further their development. This ensures the very best outcomes for young children.

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

The provision is good.

Children develop a sense of belonging because they are valued and able to make positive choices and decisions about what they would like to do. They have opportunities to become aware of wider society through access to good quality resources promoting diversity. They benefit from a range of activities to help them understand how others live such as looking at cultural festivals, like Eid where children make cards and enjoy hand painting. The childminder goes to a great deal of effort to ensure that individual needs are met, for instance by attending lessons in a child's home language to aid communication and learning. Children are beginning to learn about responsible behaviour through praise and encouragement and the use of clear boundaries of expected behaviour. The childminder uses clear strategies appropriate to their stages of development.

The childminder ensures that children are cared for according to their parents' wishes and all the required written consents are in place to support this. Policies and procedures are shared with parents to ensure they are well informed about the care provided. Parents are provided with written details about their child's daily routine including nappy changes and food intake to promote continuity of care. They are encouraged to complete questionnaires to help improve the service; feedback is very warm and positive and is supported by cards and letters that detail their appreciation of the good practice.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are extremely well looked after in the nurturing and stimulating environment. The childminder is motivated and knowledgeable and organises her day well so children benefit from an ideal balance of interesting activities. Children's health, safety and welfare is promoted extremely well because the childminder has a sound understanding of the National Standards and she knows how children develop and learn. Children participate in an excellent range of activities that are skilfully organised to ensure they suit a very wide range of ages and interests. Overall children's needs are met.

Comprehensive and clear written policies and procedures underpin the childminder's very good practice. These are written for the childminder's provision and, therefore, take into account the individual nature of the setting and the expectations of care. All documentation is in place, including any necessary consents from parents such as permission for outings. Important documents such as the insurance certificate, the conditions of registration and first aid are clearly displayed to reassure parents and carers.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Children have access to a wide range of good quality resources within their play, which positively promote diversity, they also take part in planned activities to help them learn about the wider world.

The childminder was also asked to make sure that electrical sockets are inaccessible to children. These are now fitted with plug blanks to promote children's safety.

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

Since April 2004 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 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):

- develop the outdoor area to make it more welcoming to children

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)