

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 110677  
**Inspection date** 22 January 2008  
**Inspector** Clare Moore

**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 was registered in 1992. She lives with her husband and three adult daughters in the village of Hook. The ground floor of the house is used for minding with the first floor used for sleeping. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five and two child over five. The childminder drives or walks to local schools and nurseries to take and collect children. The childminder attends local children's groups. The family has two cats and two dogs.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children find out about healthy living through enjoying an excellent diet, being active and finding out about the importance of personal hygiene. They benefit from the very well planned and varied menu that the childminder provides which gives them healthy eating choices and encourages them to try different foods. They are well hydrated as water is always available.

They rapidly become independent in their personal care as the childminder encourages them to do things for themselves such as washing and drying their hands and managing their coats and shoes.

Children are protected from the risk of infection as the childminder maintains a high standard of cleanliness. A well written sickness policy and consultation with parents ensures children who may present a risk of infection do not attend. The dogs are well cared for with regard to hygiene and have all the relevant immunisations which helps to further protect children from risk of infection.

The childminder has a current first aid qualification. First aid kits in the home and when out, together with permissions from parents and agreed emergency procedures ensure children can be very effectively cared for and treated in the event of an accident or incident.

Children enjoy frequent opportunities to take vigorous exercise. During bad weather they go to indoor settings that are equipped with soft play and are able to use slides, play in ball pits, balance and climb on foam cushions and swinging on ropes to develop upper body strength. When the weather is better they go to the park, play ball games, tag and use the fixed equipment.

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

The provision is good.

Children are safe in the home because the childminder ensures the premises are secure at all times, that toys and equipment are regularly checked and that hazardous substances are stored well out of reach. She is very careful that babies and young children are protected from unsuitable toys with small or detachable parts. Children are protected when out and about as the childminder carries emergency contact details and a mobile phone. Children's awareness of keeping themselves safe on roads is raised through looking and listening when crossing and taking turns to operate the lights at the pelican crossing. They also start to become aware of the need to prevent accidents through walking indoors rather than running and using furniture safely and with respect.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder takes care to supervise them at all times, for example frequent checks during naps for younger children and always within sight or sound of the childminder both in the home and when out and about. The dog is kept separately from the children in the home to ensure there is no risk of injury to the children.

Children are protected because the childminder is confident about recognising any indicators that show they may be exposed to abuse and also about keeping records. However, although she would not hesitate to report concerns she is less confident about the current protocol of reporting.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy attending and show they relate very well to the childminder seeking her out for physical contact, being affirmed and acknowledged and responding to her conversation. They are confident to explore and to help themselves to toys and resources from storage selecting their favourites such as dolls, building blocks and a sound and light battery operated ball game.

They also play well together joining in with imaginative play, for example putting together a dance show, dressing up and writing invitations for parents. They enjoy cooking, developing problem solving skills as they weigh and measure the ingredients. They take part in singing, rhymes and enjoy stories which helps them to develop language and vocabulary. This is further supported by encouragement from the childminder as she talks to younger children encouraging them to communicate and to name the things they see around them such as 'aeroplane.'

Children like to explore as they manipulate play dough and find out about colour through painting, mixing and comparing the colours. They start to become aware of others and their needs when they play with each other in role play and taking turns on outdoor equipment such as the slide.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder knows the children very well from her discussion with parents, interactions and observations which helps her to make sure there is something for everyone, for example the child that loves trains, cars and balls. She works skilfully with all the children to encourage them to include everyone in their play as much as possible. She intervenes with support when younger children sometimes inadvertently disrupt the play of older children. As a result children are happy and settled.

Children start to develop a positive attitude to difference as they explore their different families, diets and use some well written and illustrated books to find out about other cultures and different ways of living. They also sample a variety of foods and know where they come from, for example pizza from Italy and curries from India.

Children are co-operative with expectations and take off their shoes when indoors. They are encouraged to help to tidy up after their play and through discussion and example from the childminder find out about taking care of toys and furniture. This is to maintain resources in good condition, prevent breakages and keep themselves safe.

The childminder makes sure parents are very well informed about the service she provides. She provides them with a portfolio of her policies, has a notice board in the hall where her certificate, insurances and course certificates are displayed together with a copy of the Ofsted poster of information for parents. She provides written diaries for some of the children and talks to parents at collection about the day, outings and activities the children have taken part in. She makes sure parents are aware of her obligations regarding child protection and also her regard for confidentiality. Parents are asked to sign permission slips to cover outings, transport and emergency cover.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

She is very well organised. She ensures all adult members of the family living at home are checked and has very well written policies and procedures. Children's toys and resources are stored in a way that makes them easily accessible to the children and she ensures that most of her day is spent supporting children in their play and interaction with one another. She knows

the children very well which helps her to make sure there is something for everyone, for example the child that loves trains, cars and balls. This helps children to feel secure and confident.

Documentation covers and exceeds the requirements and is professionally managed and presented.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to devise a written complaints policy which is made available to parents. This has now been achieved.

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

Since the last inspection 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 knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and reporting procedures.

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)