

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** EY359694  
**Inspection date** 13 May 2008  
**Inspector** Hayley Lapworth

**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 2007. She child minds alongside another childminder and operates from her home in the Whitmore Park area of Coventry. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is also a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children when working alone and eight children when working with another childminder at any one time. The childminders are currently minding six children on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are looked after in a warm, generally clean and comfortable home environment. The childminder creates a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere for children. The equipment used by

the children is in a generally good state of repair and suitably clean. Children learn how to care for themselves and keep healthy. The childminder ensures that all ages of children know how to wash their hands properly, using antibacterial soap and individual hand towels. Consequently, cross-infection is minimised.

During activities and discussions children learn about features of a healthy lifestyle which includes regular fresh air and playing on equipment outdoors that promotes physical development. Children's nutritional needs are promoted as the childminder includes fruit as a snack in the children's daily diet. Children are learning about what food is good for their bodies and make choices for themselves. For example, at snack time they choose fruit as opposed to biscuits and are praised by the childminder for being healthy. As a result, children feel proud of themselves. All children independently access drinks at all times keeping themselves hydrated and meeting their own bodies needs when they are thirsty.

Records of accidents involving children are maintained. However, at the time of inspection, the childminder had not yet fully completed a first aid course or obtained consent from parents to access medical treatment in the event of an emergency. Both of which potentially compromise the children's well-being.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a suitably safe and secure indoor and outdoor environment. For example, doors and gates are kept locked and all visitors are met at the door by the childminder. The children are generally well supervised at all times as the childminder stays in the vicinity in which they are playing.

Children are kept safe through the use of safety equipment including safety gates, smoke alarms and a fire blanket. Dangerous household items such as sharp knives and cleaning fluids are made inaccessible to children. However, there is low-level glass which is not safe and accessible to children. This potentially compromises their safety. Most children have free access to a variety of resources which are stored appropriately. This means they can make choices from what they can see.

Children's safety is satisfactorily promoted as most documentation is maintained and reviewed. Children are protected from harm through the childminder's suitable knowledge of child protection procedures. For example, she answers scenario questions which demonstrate some awareness of her responsibilities with regard to recording and reporting concerns.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children attending are generally confident, relaxed and chatty. The childminder provides them with rewarding activities and experiences some of the time. These includes using play dough and paints and trips to local groups and the park. The children especially enjoy the outdoor activities, playing on the trampoline and in the water tray.

The activities on offer suitably reflect their stage of development, interests and gives them choice. Older children are encouraged to make decisions for themselves and choose what they want to play with. This is easily achieved because many resources are stored safely for the children to self-select.

Younger children are comforted by the childminder in unfamiliar situations, for example, the arrival of the inspector. Older children are keen to communicate and ask many questions of the childminder such as 'what are you doing?', 'why are you doing that?' and 'when can I go outside to play?'. They initiate conversation and talk about what they are doing as they play, regularly inviting the childminder to join in.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for as the childminder seeks most relevant information in order to effectively promote their health, diet and well-being. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are looked after appropriately. This is achieved because the childminder is generally confident about how children's needs differ and the support children may need. The childminder works well with parents and knows where to direct them to relevant professionals should there be any concerns about their children's development.

All children benefit from the childminder's generally positive attitude towards diversity. She ensures aspects of children's own background and families are reflected through toys, resources and celebrations. They are introduced to features of other peoples' lives and traditions during meaningful activities. These include creative activities about Divali and the tasting of cultural foods such as poppadoms.

Children develop positive self-esteem and confidence because they make their own decisions regularly. They are also warmly praised by the childminder when they select 'good foods' such as fruit rather than biscuits. Children behave well because there are clear boundaries set and they know what is expected of them. The childminder confidently promotes good relationships through helping children to consider one other. For example, sharing at an early age.

Children's well-being is supported by the childminder's effective relationships with parents. From the outset families access information about the childminder's service through discussions and visits.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Space in the childminder's home is organised well to facilitate children's learning and promote their independence. They have areas to play, rest and sleep in close proximity of the childminder. Children's opportunities are suitably increased as they enjoy a variety of regular outings to groups in the local area and parks.

Children's care is promoted through necessary documentation in place that is maintained at a suitable standard. This includes records of accidents, medication administered to children and their emergency contacts. There is a record of attendance in place. However, on occasion this is not effectively maintained and does not always show an accurate reflection of the number of children present. Consequently, this may impact upon children's overall safety. All documents are securely stored which promote confidentiality.

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

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

Not applicable as this is the first inspection since registration.

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

Since registration 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 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):

- make sure a first aid course is completed
- ensure records of children's attendance including times of arrival and departure are maintained
- make sure parental signatures to seek emergency medical treatment are obtained at the onset of care.

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)