

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 220616           |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 15 February 2008 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Anne Archer      |
| <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 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 1995. She lives with her children aged 18, 15 and two in a small village situated between Kettering and Wellingborough. Ground floor rooms and the bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play, with access at the bottom of the garden to the village play area.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five on a part-time basis.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a homely environment where they begin to learn the importance of hygiene and personal care. For example young children's hands are wiped before they eat snack. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder maintains a current paediatric first aid certificate and feels confident to administer first aid in the event of an accident. However, she does not obtain written consent from parents to seek emergency medical treatment or

advice in the event of an emergency. Procedures are in place in the event of a child becoming unwell or requiring the administration of medication.

Children's dietary needs are maintained through cooperation between the childminder and parents. The childminder is fully aware of children's individual dietary needs through discussion with parents and although some food is currently provided by parents she is willing to provide all meals. The childminder currently provides a cereal breakfast, snacks of fresh fruit and regular drinks. Children enjoy outdoor play in the childminder's garden, walks in the local area and visits to the nearby recreation ground which all promote their good health and development.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming home where potential risks are identified and minimised. The large garden in which the children play is secure and safety equipment is used according to the ages and needs of the children attending. This enables children to move around the house safely and independently. Children travel safely by car or in a buggy with the childminder using appropriate restraints. Older children are taught the importance of road safety during walks in the village. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder shows good understanding of the signs of abuse and the local reporting and referral procedures. Children use appropriate equipment, furniture, resources and toys which support their play and development. The childminder checks these regularly to ensure they are safe and suitable for children's individual needs.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are content in the childminder's care. Older children have the opportunity to independently select toys and resources and younger children are able to choose from a selection chosen by the childminder on a rota basis. While the childminder does not formally plan activities for the children each day, she has an idea in mind of how she intends the day to develop, taking account of children's eating and sleeping routines. Children experience warm, caring relationships with the childminder which helps to promote their confidence and self-esteem. Younger children's language development is promoted by the childminder responding to their sounds and gestures, repeating familiar words and looking at picture books with them.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. There are clear routines to the day which helps young children especially, to feel settled and secure. For example, parental requests in relation to sleep routines are respected. Children are beginning to learn about diversity through the use of resources which promote a wider view of the world and from walks and visits in the local community. Children's behaviour is managed in a way appropriate to each child's level of understanding and maturity and strategies are shared with parents.

Children's care, welfare and learning are promoted because the childminder develops positive working relationships with parents. The childminder verbally shares a range of information with new parents and makes written agreements with them after the settling-in period. She ensures she has sufficient details about each child to enable her to care for each child appropriately

and exchanges information with parents verbally each day to ensure continuity and consistency of care. However, she does not currently have a procedure to follow when a parent makes a complaint.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and at home in the childminder's care. Space, routines and resources are effectively organised to meet each child's needs. This allows children to move freely and develop their play and ideas in a safe environment. They are able to select toys and resources as well as receive adult support, individual attention and encouragement. On the whole children's care and welfare are safeguarded by appropriate documentation which is shared with parents to ensure continuity of care. Records are stored securely and confidentiality is maintained. Overall, children's needs are met.

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

At the last inspection in November 2004 the childminder was asked to record times of attendance in the daily register, devise and practise emergency evacuations, ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice and develop a knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. Recommendations have been acted upon to improve the level of care provided to children.

### **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 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):

- obtain written parental permission for children to receive emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure that there is a procedure to follow in the event of a complaint being raised.

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)