



## Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | EY330766         |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 24 October 2006  |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Jacqueline Mason |
| <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 2006. She lives in Stoke-on-Trent with her husband and four children. Two children are adults and the other two children are aged twelve and two years. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There are toilet facilities on the ground floor and a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a total of five children at any one time. She currently cares for two children under the age of five on a full-time basis.

The family has a dog and a cat as pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The arrangements to promote health and hygiene are satisfactory to help children learn about the importance of good hygiene practices. Children are reminded to wash their hands before their main meals and they sit at the table to eat these meals. Snack-time foods, such as fruit, are eaten by children as they play. However, children do not wash their hands before snacks are served. The childminder has effective procedures for sick children to prevent the spread of infection and help ensure the best interests of children are met at all times. Sick children are not accepted into the setting and exclusion periods are in place for children with infectious illnesses. All necessary documentation in relation to recording medication and accidents is in place although the childminder does not have written parental permission to seek necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder has a good awareness of healthy eating and offers a varied and balanced diet that encourages children to make healthy choices about what they eat. The childminder is aware of what the children like to eat and considers this when planning meals. For example she recognises that some of the children in her care enjoy yoghurts and she promotes this for dessert at lunch time rather than sugary sweets. Children are encouraged to eat fresh fruit and vegetables and special dietary needs can be catered for in agreement with parents and carers. Children are encouraged to recognise when they are thirsty. Drinks are kept readily accessible and younger children are offered their drink regularly.

Children are able to rest and sleep according to their individual needs. The childminder promotes physical development well. Energetic physical play is encouraged through outings to the local park as well as the rear garden of the childminder's home where a varied range of outdoor toys is provided. Physical development is also promoted within the home through dancing and bringing outdoor toys inside.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has not identified or practised a suitable emergency evacuation plan and this compromises children's safety. However, the childminder is aware of escape routes from the house for use in the event of an emergency situation. Good arrangements for home safety helps ensure that children can play confidently and safely when indoors and outside. The childminder takes all necessary steps to limit hazards and these are appropriate to the age of the children cared for. For example, a safety gate is used to restrict access to the kitchen and a fire guard, securely attached to the wall, helps to prevent the risks of burns from the gas fire and bumps from falling onto the hearth. Space within the home is used appropriately and toys are stored effectively to encourage children to select, carry out activities and put them away after use.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child protection issues and has attended training that has helped to develop her awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse. She is aware

of her responsibilities to ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded and is confident to report concerns to ensure that the best interests of children are met at all times. Children are further protected because security is good to ensure that children are not able to leave the premises unsupervised. An effective procedure for the collection of children helps to keep them safe as the childminder is clear about her arrangements for not allowing children to leave with persons not nominated by parents and carers.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children take part in a varied day that offers them a range of play and routine experiences. They have opportunities to meet with other children through outings to the local park and toddler group. Through this children's social development is promoted and they are developing good relationships with others. The childminder offers a variety of play experiences that enables children to take part in active and noisy activities such as dancing, using musical instruments and outdoor play. She also encourages quiet activities that include looking at books and doing puzzles. Children enjoy messy activities such as paints and playdough and also have time to play freely with age-appropriate toys. Through all of these activities children are able to build on their natural curiosity as learners. The childminder tries to ensure that a structured activity is carried out each day but outcomes for children could be further improved by implementing the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

The childminder spends time getting to know the children in her care and because of this they are confident, settled and enjoy their time with her. She knows their likes and preferences and organises the play environment to enable children to develop a sense of belonging. Children benefit from a satisfactory range of age-appropriate toys and equipment that promote all areas of development. The childminder is involved in the children's play, for example, she helps children to sort play food into categories such as fruit and cans and joins in with playing with toys that children have chosen. She looks at books with children and encourages them in conversation, discussing the pictures and helping them to identify items. Younger children are encouraged to repeat unfamiliar words to help develop their vocabulary and communication skills.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing a satisfactory awareness of the world around them and the diversity of it. the childminder has an adequate understanding of equal opportunities issues although the resources to promote positive images of culture, disability and gender are limited. The childminder knows the children well. She finds out about individual needs through discussion with parents and carers and follows younger children's established routines to help promote continuity of care. The childminder has a good respect for the individuality of children and responds well to their likes, dislikes and preferences. Although the childminder does not currently care for children with learning difficulties or disabilities she has appropriate procedures in place to enable her to include them fully in the setting.

Professional and friendly relationships with parents and carers helps the childminder to build trusting relationships with them. Information is shared with them daily to ensure that they are involved in the care of their children and the childminder is currently developing individual daily diaries to enable parents and carers to have a written record of what the children are doing each day. A range of written policies and procedures are currently being put in place to help parents and carers make informed choices about their children's care.

The childminder manages children's behaviour well. Consistent boundaries help children learn right from wrong. Children are encouraged to share and take turns and through this they learn to play harmoniously together. Strategies to manage unwanted behaviour are appropriate to the age and level of understanding of the children. The childminder develops good and trusting relationships with children and her emphasis on praising and encouraging good behaviour helps children to develop confidence and self-esteem.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is suitably qualified and experienced to enable her to childmind. She is enthusiastic about developing her childcare skills and knowledge through attendance at relevant training courses. The registration certificate and public liability insurance certificate are displayed. Most necessary documentation relating to the care of children is in place and records are stored securely to ensure that confidentiality is maintained.

The childminder's home is warm and welcoming to parents, carers and children. There are effective arrangements in place to protect children from persons who have not been vetted. Space is used effectively to offer children a variety of play experiences. The childminder offers environments where children can be active as well as providing quiet areas for rest and sleep. Children are offered good adult support to enable them to feel settled and secure. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

Not applicable.

### **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):

- improve the arrangements to help children learn about the importance of good hygiene
- obtain written parental permission to seek necessary emergency medical advice or treatment
- devise and practice an emergency escape plan
- improve outcomes for children in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework
- increase toys and resources to promote positive images of culture, disability and gender.

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)