

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | EY366492     |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 16 June 2008 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Paula Hunt   |
| <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 2007. She lives with her husband and four children aged one, two, nine and eleven years in the town of Nuneaton in Warwickshire. The whole of the ground floor and two bedrooms are used for childminding and there is a secure garden for outside play. The childminder uses the car to take and collect children from local schools. She takes children to the local park and the family has a pet Labrador.

The childminder is reregistered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one child aged under eight years on a full time basis and two children over eight on a part-time basis.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a warm, clean and welcoming environment where procedures implemented help them to stay healthy. Children increase their knowledge of good hygiene practices through daily routine activities. For example, children are eager to wash their hands before meals.

Individual bed linen, liquid soap and regular toy cleaning help to minimise the risk of cross-infection to children. The childminder implements other effective strategies to ensure that children's well-being is protected. For example, an exclusion policy is used to prevent the spread of infection and a first aid kit is easily accessible. The childminder has good policies and procedures identified for dealing with sickness, accidents and administration of medication.

Children enjoy a suitable range of activities that contributes to their good health. They are nourished through a balanced diet that includes fresh fruit and vegetables. They have access to water or fresh dilute juice at all times. The childminder talks positively to parents about healthy eating. She discusses individual dietary needs and records this information appropriately.

Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their good health. Regular physical activities help children develop physical skills and gain control of their bodies. For example, outdoor games, walks around the local environment, use of the field opposite and dance sessions indoors. The rear garden is currently not in use due to the building work taking place. Children are given opportunities to rest or sleep in line with parental wishes and individual sleep patterns.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an organised, welcoming environment where most risks are identified and minimised. The childminder implements a wide range of safety procedures that aim to ensure children's safety is safeguarded and promoted. For example, the childminder has a written policy on safety and practice, she has completed a visual risk assessment and has nominated persons identified for emergencies. Children develop an understanding of how to keep themselves safe, such as when the childminder discusses how to cross the road safely on the way to and from school. Most safety equipment is in place, regularly checked and maintained and all children practise emergency evacuations to ensure they are familiar with procedures should an emergency arise. However, the front door is easily accessible to children which means they potentially could leave the premises unsupervised. Documents to support the vehicle used to transport children is properly maintained and has appropriate insurance cover were not available for inspection.

Children have access to a suitable range of safe, clean and developmentally-appropriate toys and equipment. These are organised to allow children some independent access or able to request the childminder to access them. This enables children to make decisions about their own play and learning. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection procedures to ensure children are protected from harm or neglect. She is aware of who to contact if she has any concerns about a child in her care and is confident to report them if required.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's home as they move around and make some decisions about their play and learning. Children are involved in an adequate range of activities that support their development and learning. For example, children enjoy looking at books, completing tray jigsaws and investigating items in a basket which relate to the 'Little Red Riding Hood' story. Newly introduced plans, that include worthwhile themes and topics, form a framework to promote children's learning. Children acquire new knowledge and skills through the childminder's support and use of questioning. She sits with the younger children to help

them to play meaningfully and extends their vocabulary by speaking clearly and repeating words.

At most times children experience a range of age-appropriate activities that promote development, encourage confidence, develop independence and promote self-esteem, such as independently selecting activities and resources. However, older children are not appropriately challenged due to limited resources and activities which limits their opportunities for learning and development. Many of the activities are child-led with the childminder supporting and extending children's learning.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated as individuals helping them to develop a sense of worth and value others. They benefit from the childminder knowing them well and responding to their personal needs and interests. They are learning to respect their own culture, and those of the wider world, through the childminder's positive attitude and use of appropriate resources to reflect differences in culture and ability.

Children learn to understand and respect the values and feelings of others when they take turns, share, play together and consider others feelings during the daily routine.

Children are well behaved. The childminder has a very caring manner and demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of how to manage children's behaviour appropriately. For example, to ensure that children remain interested and occupied at all times the childminder changes activities as soon as she feels they may be getting bored. This helps to prevent any unwanted behaviour. Children are happy, settled and enjoy a warm relationship with the childminder.

Children benefit from the positive relationships developed between the childminder and their parents. Written contracts and registration details ensure that the childminder has all the information she needs to meet children's individual needs. Discussions are held with parents and children at the initial visits with ongoing discussions and observations undertaken on a daily basis to ensure individual children's needs are identified and met. The childminder ensures parents are fully aware of her service and how children will be cared for. She discusses her policies and procedures and holds daily discussions with parents about children's care and achievements.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the relevant training requirements; she has completed her Introduction to Childminding Practice and holds a current first aid certificate. The children feel comfortable and at ease within the childminder's home. The environment provided both inside and outside the home enables children to be confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Verbal and written policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Information is shared regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities and well-being. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. With the exception of the daily attendance register most of the required documentation is in place, accurately completed and maintained. Overall, children's needs are met.

## **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):

- ensure that older children are appropriately challenged with regard to increasing resources and activities available to them
- ensure the premises are secure and children cannot leave unsupervised with regard to the front door
- ensure any vehicle used to transport children has appropriate insurance and MOT
- ensure the daily attendance register is accurate and up to date.

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)