



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	117009
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 May 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Joanne Graham
<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 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 1993. She lives with her husband and four children in Reading, Berkshire. The ground floor of the house is used for childminding, with bathroom and sleeping facilities on the first floor. 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 five children on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parents/carer group. The family has a cat and a hamster.

The childminder holds a childcare qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, well-ventilated home where they learn the importance of personal care. For example, washing their hands after using the toilet, eating, playing in the garden and handling the pets, and before eating. They understand why this is important with simple explanations from the childminder. Children participate in physical activities, which contribute to their good health, both inside and outdoors. For example, trips to the local park where they access large equipment to improve their balancing and climbing skills, pushing the pushchair carefully around inside and jumping on the trampoline in the garden. Parents give the childminder prior written consent to administer medication that ensures children receive the correct dosage according to their needs. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and the first aid box is easily accessible. This means she can give appropriate care if there is an accident. She records accidents well, ensuring she maintains confidentiality and obtains parental signatures. She has methods to record incidents when required. The childminder makes sure children are protected from illness by making sure parents are aware of the exclusion periods in the sickness policy.

Children have their health and dietary needs met because the childminder works well with parents and keeps details of any allergies and religious requirements. She ensures the children's food supplies; provided by parents, are available at appropriate meal times and stored safely, usually in the refrigerator. Children are beginning to recognise their bodily needs and request drinks when they are thirsty.

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

The provision is good.

Children play and move around safely in the setting where the childminder identifies hazards and minimises risks. They have easy and safe access to suitable age appropriate toys and equipment, which the childminder checks regularly. She ensures toys have no choke hazards and are suitable to the children's stage of development. Children benefit from good safety measures in place. For example, a fireguard, safe storage of dangerous substances and medication and a secure outside play area. They are becoming aware of how to keep themselves out of harm's way. They know they do not enter the kitchen and garden without the childminder.

The childminder supervises children well, ensuring they are always within sight or hearing distance at all times. Children stay safe on outings as they are suitably restrained in the buggy and the older children are developing an understanding of road safety. In addition, the childminder takes emergency contact numbers, a mobile phone, drinks and supplies to support the children. Children's needs are safeguarded by good documentation. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and knows how to proceed if she has concerns about a child in her care. She is aware that all persons living in the household over 16, require suitable checks and she ensures they are not left unsupervised with the children, until their checks are finalised. This supports children's wellbeing.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy their time in the provision. They are confident, self-assured and well supported because the childminder is attentive to their individual needs and has an excellent understanding of child development. Children are involved in a broad range of age appropriate and stimulating activities and spontaneous events, which support their development well. This contributes to moving their learning forward. They explore the texture of dough, whilst they mould it into many different shapes and enjoy noticing changes in the natural world. For example, smelling the thyme, hunting for frogs in the pond and growing beans in the vegetable plot within the garden.

Children become independent as they self-select between an extensive range of toys, books and activities, which appeal to them. They spend their time purposefully and enjoy participating in activities, which develop their imaginative and creative play, and listening skills. They respond positively to the childminder's interactions and particularly enjoy snuggling up with her to listen to stories. The children talk about the pictures, listen attentively and answer questions about the pictures through gestures, sounds and words. Their language skills develop well, particularly whilst using the make believe equipment and through excellent support and effective questioning from the childminder. One child carefully 'cuts' a piece of cake, puts it onto a plate and after placing a candle into it, sings 'Happy Birthday'. The childminder follows the game and pretends to blow out the candle, much to the child's delight.

The childminder provides a warm and welcoming, child friendly environment. She is attentive to the children's needs, provides activities that engage children's interests effectively and that are suitable for their stage of development. She is interested in what the children say and do, praises their achievements and efforts and ensures she offers very good individual attention. This helps children to feel happy, contented and settled.

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

The provision is good.

Children engage in suitable activities, have sufficient time to rest, play, and receive cuddles, support and affection from the childminder. Children feel a sense of belonging. They are happy, relaxed and secure to participate in activities. They access a good selection of age appropriate and stimulating activities and are confident to approach the childminder to participate in their play and for comfort. Children receive good care, meeting their individual needs well. The childminder works effectively with parents to ensure she follows routines and fully involves the children in the life of the setting. She engages in daily verbal discussions about their child's achievements and day. The childminder does not have the poster to inform parents of how to make a complaint to the regulator, currently has no log to record any complaints made by parents and is unfamiliar with the current changes with regards to complaints. She does have knowledge of previous requirements.

Children are aware of the boundaries and respond positively to praise and encouragement. Their behaviour is very good and the childminder manages behaviour consistently. Children receive sufficient and appropriate support to help build their self-esteem and move their learning

forward. They are confident to make some choices and decisions. Children become aware of the wider society through visits to local places of interest, meeting friends and accessing a good range of equipment depicting positive images. This helps to foster their understanding. The childminder has a clear knowledge of how to care for children with special needs, although none currently attends.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are well protected and cared for by the childminder who has a very good knowledge and understanding of child development and holds a suitable childcare qualification. They receive good care and ample attention from the childminder, contributing to them feeling settled and secure. The childminder has high regard for children's welfare. Written policies and procedures guide the childminder in her daily practice. This ensures she meets children's needs and she shares all relevant information with parents. A good two-way flow of information ensures continuity of care.

She provides a calm, welcoming and spacious environment for children to explore freely and she does not leave children unsupervised with persons not vetted. This contributes to children's safety, enjoyment and ability to take an active part in the setting. All legally required documentation that contributes to children's health, safety and wellbeing are in place and the childminder stores these securely, maintaining confidentiality well. The childminder displays her certificate of registration during operating hours and maintains ratios at all times. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection, the childminder had a recommendation to record children's arrival and departure times accurately. She completes a daily register, which includes these times and ensures she keeps this up to date. This safeguards children's safety and welfare.

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

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. There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

## 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):

- familiarise self with changes to the complaints procedure and provide parents with details of the regulator.

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)