



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	130433
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 May 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Anneliese Fox-Jones
<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 registered in 1998. She lives in a house in Watford with her husband, one adult daughter and a son aged 12 years. The childminder uses the downstairs area for childminding which includes a dedicated play room and there is easy access to a secure garden from the conservatory.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding five children.

The family have one cat.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm and welcoming environment. They stay healthy because they are adept at simple health and hygiene practices. They wash their hands after using the toilet and wipe them before and after eating. There are effective sickness procedures in place. Children have regular opportunities to take part in physical activity in the home and when using a variety of equipment at local toddler groups. Children are involved in a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health such as walks, outings to parks or play in the garden. Children therefore benefit from regular fresh air. Children rest and sleep according to their needs.

Children make sensible choices from a broad range of healthy foods. They have their dietary needs met because the childminder works well with parents and takes account of the children's choices to provide fresh, nutritious meals and snacks. Children stay healthy as they are actively encouraged to take part in healthy eating by consuming five portions of fruit and vegetables a day. Children have access to drinks at all times and enjoy eating a variety of fresh fruit at snack time.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe and secure environment. Children have access to a dedicated play room where resources are stored and easily made accessible. They use suitable and safe equipment that is appropriate for their development and interests. However, there are safety issues within the garden due to cigarette butts within the flowerbeds. Hence risk assessments are not thorough in protecting children.

Children's security is protected by the care the childminder takes to ensure children play in suitable and secure areas. For example, stair gates and door locks that are in place. Children are kept safe on outings because they are closely supervised and are beginning to learn about road safety. Children are further safeguarded as they wear aluminous wrist bands on planned outings with the childminder's mobile number on. Children are protected because the childminder understands her role in child protection and has a sound understanding of issues and procedures to follow.

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

The provision is good.

Children develop good confidence and self-esteem because they feel comfortable and settled within the childminder's home. They are involved and interested in the activities provided by the childminder and readily use their initiative to develop and make choices about their play. For example, they show enthusiasm when pretending to wash the dolls clothes in the toy washing machine and are excited to dry the childminder's hair with the toy hairdryer. Children are happy and welcome the childminder to be involved in their play. They are keen to listen to

stories they have chosen for the childminder to read and are overjoyed when they can find objects in the book, such as finding the croc in 'Where is little croc'.

Children benefit from visits in the local environment, they enjoy daily visits to various toddler groups that the childminder runs and frequent outings to the park. This provides children with access to different equipment and experiences of other environments. Children are developing good social skills and make positive relationships with their peers. Children respond very well to the childminder's friendly approach and guidance. The childminder makes use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to guide young children's development. Children are provided with a variety of play situations to help stimulate communication and learning.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued and treated fairly. A varied range of activities and resources increases children's awareness of diversity and wider society. Children benefit from the childminder's recent training in this area. The childminder has a clear understanding that children with special needs may require additional resources and support to enable them to reach their potential. Children feel a sense of belonging and are relaxed and at ease in the childminder's care. Older children attending after school are able to organise their own games without too much intervention and are willing to involve the younger children.

Children behave generally well. They are beginning to understand responsible behaviour as house boundaries are firmly and consistently reinforced. Children comply with reminders to behave appropriately towards each other. They are learning to share and take turns. Parents are kept well informed about the children's activities through the use of detailed daily diaries. Children receive appropriate care because their needs and interests are initially identified and discussed. This contributes to continuity of care and professional working relationships.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises time sufficiently well to meet the requirements of the children. Children receive a lot of support and attention because the childminder spends her time playing and interacting with the children to develop their care, learning and play. Most of the necessary documentation is in place for the effective management of the provision, with the exception of one uncompleted accident record, and regulatory parental consents have not been transferred into the children's new record book. Consequently this may compromise children's welfare. An organised portfolio offers parents information about the setting.

Children enjoy attending a variety of toddler groups throughout the week that the childminder runs. They benefit from the opportunities to visit various environments and socialise with others. As a result children are developing good social skills. Space is used effectively as a dedicated playroom in the conservatory is used to store equipment. Resources are easily accessible for children to independently make choices in their play. Overall the childminder meets the needs of all the children who attend.

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

At the last care inspection, the childminder was asked to ensure that Ofsted is informed of any changes to her registration, regarding adult and child ratios. The childminder is now aware of the correct ratios for children attending ten early education sessions a week. This contributes positively to the children's care, attention and welfare.

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

Since April 2004 Ofsted has received two complaints.

Ofsted received a complaint in May 2004 raising concerns in relation to Standard 13: Child Protection. Ofsted investigated the concerns and conducted a visit and were satisfied that the childminder had taken appropriate action to the concerns raised regarding children having access to inappropriate materials on the computer.

Ofsted received a complaint in November 2004 raising concerns in relation to Standard 1: Suitable person, Standard 4: Physical Environment and Standard 6: Safety. Ofsted investigated by carrying out an unannounced visit and inspecting the premises both indoors and outside and interviewing the childminder in relation to practice, persons resident and safety procedures. Ofsted found no evidence that the premises was failing to be maintained in line with the National Standards. The childminder gave evidence that she was meeting her registration requirements.

The childminder remains qualified for registration.

### **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):

- ensure any potential hazards are made safe or inaccessible to the children, with regards to cigarette ends in the garden
- obtain written parental consent for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice
- ensure all records of accidents are accurately maintained and signed by the parents.

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)