



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	131191
<b>Inspection date</b>	16 August 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Cordalee Harrison
<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?

This childminder was registered in 2000. She lives with her partner and their child aged six years in Winslow, Buckinghamshire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home may be used for childminding. Toilet and washing facilities are also available on this level. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding nine children under eight years. Of these, five children are under five and four are aged between five and seven years. All of the children attend on a part time basis. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family pet is a cat.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children get fresh air and physical exercise daily. They walk to and from school and to visit the local parks where they use large equipment, including swings, slides and roundabouts. They run freely in the garden and enjoy various games. They use a wide range of outdoor resources to develop their stamina and different muscle groups. For example, they use skipping ropes, run sack races and play various ball games. Children manipulate malleable play materials, they whisk, stir, and use tools in cooking activities. These practical physical activities develop their fine movements and eye and hand coordination.

Children eat healthy and nutritious food. The range of meals that children eat includes foods from all of the main food groups. Regular meal times enables children to develop good eating habits. Children are able to help themselves to drinks of water and sugar free drinks throughout the day. Children learn when they are thirsty. They know that washing their hands before eating and after using the toilet helps to get rid of germs and also to stop them getting an upset stomach; they are developing good self-care skills. The clear procedure for managing allergies safeguards children's health. The childminder's good hygiene practices in the home minimise the risk of cross infection for children.

The childminder, who is qualified in first aid, uses appropriate first aid equipment to deal with minor accidents involving children. The childminder keeps clear records of children's medication and accidents, which she shares with parents to safeguard children's health.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder's effective organisation of the space and resources enables children to select and use good quality safe resources in their play. It allows children to play freely in a safe, secure and comfortable home environment.

The childminder takes effective safety precautions in all areas that are accessible to children, she supervises the children closely. This enables the children to move freely between the house and the garden. She checks regularly and reviews her safety precautions to ensure that they are suitable for the children she is minding. Suitable fire fighting equipment is readily available for the childminder to use. The childminder shares an emergency evacuation plan with parents. She discusses fire safety with children and together they have identified the emergency exits. However, she has not practised the fire drill with children to ensure that they are able to evacuate the premises quickly and safely. Children are learning that good behaviour helps to keep them safe in the street.

The childminder demonstrates good understanding of child protection. She is clear about lines of communication for dealing with child protection issues with parents, and the local and registering authority to safeguard children's welfare. She makes useful child protection

information available to parents, this enables them to deal with issues of concern about children in a straightforward way.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder is experienced at caring for children of varying ages. She uses her good knowledge of child development to provide stimulating play opportunities that are appropriate to the different stages of development of the children she minds. Children make good progress in their overall development. Children have many interesting and exciting first hand play and learning experiences. The warm interaction between the children and the childminder promotes the children's confidence, independence and emotional security. They approach the childminder confidently to talk about their activities and involve her in their play.

Children participate in activities that are stimulating and fun, they progress their intellect, creative and communication skills in practical ways. For example, they weigh, measure and estimate as they prepare the ingredients in their cooking activities. They further experiment as they play with sand and water and learn which objects will sink and which ones will float. They care for plants they grow from seeds and seedlings and watch them flower and fruit. They use their imagination well to entertain themselves and to practise what they know. For example, as they discuss their recent outing to the farm, they extend the experience by building shelters for the farm animals and machinery with the construction sets. Children are proud of their achievements.

Children deepen their understanding of good hygiene practices whilst preparing food. They also learn to use tools and kitchen equipment safely. Children progress their social skills, as they take part in social events that are appropriate to their stage of development. Visits to the toddler group, bus rides to other local towns, visits to the cafe and outings to meet with their peers provide opportunities for them to interact and socialise with their others, they build trusting relationships with others in the wider community. Children have fun and enjoy their time with the childminder.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder gains sufficient good quality information which enables her to meet children's individual care and health needs and safeguard their welfare. She develops and maintains good relationships with children and their parents. This keeps lines of communication open, enhances continuity of care for individual children and involves parents in their children's care. The childminder's good understanding of issues relating to equality promotes non-discriminatory care for children. Children learn to value their own cultures and that of others. Children use practical resources to extend their learning about diversity and disability. For example, books such as, 'Me and other people', and 'Why do some people use wheelchairs', extend children's understanding of the wider society and help them to value the contributions and skills of others.

The childminder praises children and acknowledges when they have done well. For example, she praises the children for tidying up the toys promptly, this makes children feel valued. The childminder uses behaviour strategies that are appropriate to children's level of understanding. She allows children to resolve conflicts that are within their capabilities, this encourages children to manage their behaviour and consider others. Children are learning when their behaviour is unacceptable and how their behaviour affects others. The childminder's consistent approach and suitable behaviour strategies help children to know what to expect. Children are polite, they say please and thank you and behave well.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder's organisation is good; it covers all aspects of her childminding activities well. Children are welcomed in a safe and secure home environment with sufficient good quality resources easily accessible for them to use. The childminder plans sufficient good quality interesting and stimulating activities for children. Children have many good play and learning experiences indoors and outside. They make good progress in their development.

The childminder shares some well-considered practice statements with parents and assures them of her consistent childcare practices. She uses information from parents as part of her self evaluation and to progress her childcare practices. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate, appropriate public liability and vehicle insurances for the benefit of the children she looks after. All documentation required to safeguard children's health and welfare is in place. The childminder is committed to training, to improve her knowledge of child protection and to safeguard children she has completed child protection course. 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 was asked to keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children and obtain the current Area Child Protection Procedures.

Since the last inspection, the childminder has maintained a written record of all medication she has administered to children. These records are shared with parents and acknowledged with a parent's signature. Children's record of medication is accurate and safeguards their health. The childminder has obtained the Local Area Safeguarding Board guidelines and procedures for childminders. She has improved her knowledge of child protection and makes the useful information she has gained from the local authority available to parents. This enables the childminder and parents to deal with concerns about children's welfare in a straightforward way to safeguard children.

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

Since the last inspection, one complaint was made to Ofsted. It related to National Standard 2. Organisation and National Standard 11. Behaviour. Concerns were raised that the childminder was caring for more children that she is registered for, and about her management of children's

behaviour. An Ofsted childcare inspector investigated the complaint. Standards were met and no further action was taken. The childminder remains qualified for registration.

The childminder is required to maintain a record of written complaints. The record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted. The complaint record must be made available to parents on request.

## **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):

- practise evacuation of the premises with children.

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)