



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	133976
<b>Inspection date</b>	04 July 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Jan Leo

<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 has been registered since November 1993. She lives with her husband and two daughters, aged 12 and 15 years, in a rural setting in a village near Kidlington, Oxfordshire. Her home is close to local shops, park and village hall. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and a bedroom upstairs is set aside for rest or sleep. There is a garden at the rear of the house which is used under close supervision.

The childminder is registered to care for up to five children under eight years and currently has seven children on roll. All attend on a part time basis.

The childminder regularly attends a local carer and toddler group for minded children. She receives support from the local authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children learn about a healthy lifestyle by following excellent practice regarding health and hygiene, participating in regular exercise outdoors, and eating healthy snacks to keep them well nourished. They frequently play in the garden taking in fresh air as they run around, rolling and kicking balls to develop their stamina and co-ordination. Children naturally keep to strict hand washing routines, which they learn from an early age to instil good habits for later life. They have individual hand towels to avoid the spread of germs and a range of products to help develop independence with toileting. The childminder supervises hand washing, giving gentle reminders to reinforce good practice. Children bring a packed lunch from home and successfully tell the childminder which items need to be refrigerated. The childminder talks to children about the type of foods that are good for them and involves them in watering the plants to help them understand how living things stay healthy. Children have drinks, within easy reach, at all times and the childminder ensures they remember to drink more in hot weather. The children apply their own sun-cream and gladly wear their hats when playing outside. The childminder erects tents and umbrellas to provide a good degree of shade to protect children from harmful rays, and carefully monitors time outdoors to ensure children do not overheat. The childminder keeps the first aid box well equipped to enable the effective treatment of injuries, and she maintains clear accident and medication records that she shares with parents and carers. The childminder attends useful training, such as food hygiene and first aid, to make sure she keeps abreast of good practice.

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

The provision is good.

Children are safe because they learn to use equipment carefully, benefit from a high level of supervision, and the childminder carries out risk assessments for all the activities. The home is compact with resources on view at low level to enable children to choose what to do. The childminder keeps toy boxes tidy to ensure children know where to find things but play space is limited due to the large quantity of available equipment. The children help clean toys during water play and the childminder checks items for damage whenever they are used, removing any that might cause injury. The childminder controls access to equipment such as glue and games with small pieces in order to protect children from hazards without limiting what is on offer. Children learn about stranger danger and road safety when they go on outings and the childminder uses a variety of effective safety precautions to keep all children safe and close by her side. The childminder has very well thought out arrangements to cover emergencies she leaves nothing to chance. Parents and carers receive full information about back up plans and give their approval in advance to ensure care arrangements are acceptable. The childminder has a clear understanding of child protection issues because she undertakes training to keep up to date with changes. She holds useful reference material on file, complete with contact numbers in case she has concerns about a child and needs to make a referral.

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

The provision is outstanding.

All children arrive happily and settle quickly because the childminder builds good relationships with families and makes them welcome. They come inside to share information and say a leisurely goodbye but children are sometimes already too engrossed to notice parents leave. The children thoroughly enjoy each other's company and play very well together. They share ideas, acting out scenarios with play people in cars, calling on emergency services to help with accidents. The children learn from each other saying, for example, 'let's hop' before leading others into the lounge trying, with some success, to hop without overbalancing. The children choose what to do when they arrive and rapidly develop their games to include the childminder. She interacts exceptionally well with the children to extend their play and help them understand more about everyday life. The childminder uses some sign language to ease communication with very young children and enable them to express their needs before gaining their language skills. Older children freely request specific activities, such as outdoor play or drawing. The childminder, intuitively knowing how children learn, supplies both the activity and appropriate level of input to ensure children enjoy their day and learn effortlessly.

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

The provision is outstanding.

All children benefit from a variety of activities and opportunities to help them develop their personality and preferences. They learn to accept other cultures and beliefs by visiting a range of venues and meeting different people. The childminder values all children and willingly undertakes training to increase her knowledge of special needs. She sets very clear boundaries and works closely with parents and carers to ensure strategies for managing behaviour are consistent with those used at home. As a result, children are very friendly and play extremely well together creating a cheerful environment where everyone enjoys their day. The childminder builds very strong bonds with both children and their parents and she tailors care arrangements to suit the family's needs. For example, she adapts collection arrangements to relieve anxiety when a child is initially reluctant to part from mum. Parents and carers receive copies of all policies and give advanced approval for specific aspects of practice, such as outings, photographs, and the application of sun cream. This enables them to be fully involved in the care of their children.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. The children follow a basic routine to ensure they feel secure and know what to expect. Free play, organised activities and outings are included to provide children with a balance of indoor and outdoor opportunities. The childminder organises resources at low level to promote independence and provide children with choice. This limits the space available for floor play within the dining room, which is the main play area. The childminder has exceptionally well thought out plans and procedures to keep children safe on a day-to-day basis and in a crisis. Children's records are up to date and the childminder has a number of written policies and practice documents

in place to ensure standards remain high. Parents and carers see all relevant information and approve practice to give them control over their children's care. The childminder displays essential information, such as her registration certificate and the Ofsted parent poster, but the poster is not the most up-to-date version. All documentation, required by regulation, is in place and kept to a high standard. It is well organised, easy to locate, and clear.

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

Three recommendations were set at the last inspection requiring the childminder to develop her knowledge of child protection, improve hygiene regarding nappy changing, and ensure outdoor play equipment was in good condition. The childminder has attended two child protection training courses since the last inspection in order to learn more and update her knowledge when new information became available. This has given her the confidence to act appropriately if she has concerns about a child. The changing mat is now disinfected after each nappy change to avoid the spread of germs, and the damaged swing has been thrown away to ensure children do not get hurt.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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.

## **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):

- review the organisation of resources to provide more space for play, and provide parents and carers with up to date contact details for Ofsted.

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)