



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	108113
<b>Inspection date</b>	23 August 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Glenda Pownall
<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 1995. She lives with her husband, two adult children and one child who is aged 12 years, in Maidenhead, Berkshire. The childminder uses the whole of the ground floor of the house for childminding. Young children use a travel cot for sleeping in a first floor bedroom. There is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder may care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding one child under five full-time, three children under five part-time and three children after school and during the holidays. The childminder makes use of local facilities such as parks, the library and toddler groups. The family has three pet chickens.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She is a member of the Windsor and Maidenhead Childminding Network. She holds an appropriate early years qualification.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children follow good personal hygiene routines as a result of effective guidance from the childminder. For example, she encourages them to wash their hands before touching food and after handling animals. The childminder has a clear understanding of the procedure to follow with regard to recording accidents; this promotes the health of children. However, she does not request prior written consent from parents to seek emergency medical advice or attention for the children. The first aid kit is not checked frequently and a number of items are out of date. It is also not easy to access in the event of an emergency, as the childminder stands on a chair to reach it from on top of a kitchen cupboard. This compromises the health of children.

The childminder meets the dietary needs of children by discussing and recording their individual requirements with parents. She provides nutritious balanced meals which include fresh fruit and vegetables, such as carrot and cucumber sticks and a selection of chopped fresh fruit. Children receive healthy snacks of fresh fruit on request in between meals.

Children develop an understanding of the importance of regular drinks as part of a healthy lifestyle, as they help themselves to water from the fridge developing their independence skills. Children have daily opportunities to experience physical play. They thoroughly enjoy playing on the climbing equipment in the garden, have regular outings to local parks and walk to and from school when possible. This contributes towards a healthy lifestyle.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment. For example, they spend much of their time playing in the conservatory, and the childminder has effective measures in place to ensure the temperature is appropriately maintained. Children access a wide range of activities covering all areas of development. Most resources are within the reach of children, enabling them to make decisions about what they play with. The childminder regularly cleans the resources and makes visual checks to ensure that they are clean and safe for children to use.

Children play in a safe environment, because the childminder has a good understanding of how to risk assess the premises to minimise risks to children's safety. For example, all potentially hazardous materials are stored in high kitchen cupboards out of the reach of children, and the childminder secures the latch on the front door to prevent children leaving the premises unsupervised. Children develop awareness of how to keep themselves safe whilst using the roads, because the childminder encourages them to adopt good road safety practices. Young children are appropriately restrained in the buggy and older children walk away from the kerb holding onto the buggy or the childminder's hand.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the procedure to follow if concerned a child is at risk from abuse. She has attended recent training to update her knowledge. This protects children whilst in her care.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled in the childminding environment. They form good relationships with each other and show concern for younger children involving them in their play. For example, they provide support for younger children on the climbing frame and read stories to them, whilst playing schools. Children state they particularly enjoy playing schools and drawing, whilst with the childminder.

Young children receive good support from the childminder. For example, she supports two young children to complete puzzles they have chosen. She then extends the activity by suggesting they complete a large floor puzzle and provides encouragement and lots of praise.

In the relaxed atmosphere children are free to repeat activities to reinforce the skills they learn and have the freedom to play in the garden whenever they want. They readily approach the childminder for help, such as to write their name or request a snack, indicating trusting relationships. Children co-operate effectively to organise a ball game. Children share resources and take turns, such as when playing a board game. There is a lot of chatter at activities and children have a great deal of fun participating in the available activities.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder treats all children with equal concern, according to their individual needs. There is a small range of resources which reflect equality of opportunities and children learn about the diverse society in which they live, by attending local childminder drop-in groups three mornings a week. The childminder has effective procedures in place to support children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She works closely with parents and other agencies to ensure the needs of children are met.

The childminder has positive strategies in place to manage children and their behaviour, such as explanation, time out and distraction with younger children. The childminder provides lots of praise and encouragement throughout the day. This fosters a sense of self worth. Children respond positively to requests from the childminder, such as to tidy away resources or to come in from the garden. Children behave very well.

The childminder has effective procedures in place to promote a positive relationship with parents. Children receive continuity of care, because there is a good exchange of information between the childminder and parents. The childminder uses daily diaries to inform parents of children's activities and daily routines. Parents state they are happy with the care their children receive and particularly like the friendly environment.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibilities with regard to the National Standards. She attends relevant training sessions to enhance her childcare practice. Most documentation is in place. However, the childminder keeps a record of medicines administered to children in the individual diaries that go home with the children each day. Therefore, the records are not always held on the premises at all times. The childminder has a complaints procedure in place, but it does not include providing parents with the name and contact details of the regulator.

Children are happy and secure in the care of the childminder, as she spends most of her time actively involved in their play. Children form warm relationships with the childminder and other members of the family. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The provider was asked to keep individual child detail forms for each child, rather than recording the details for siblings on the same form. Individual child detail forms are now in place for each child.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004.

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 contents and position of the first aid box to ensure all items are within date and it is easily accessible in the event of an emergency and request written permission from parents to seek emergency medical attention

- review the procedure for recording medication administered to children to ensure a record is kept on the premises at all times and provide parents with the contact 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)