



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY296433
<b>Inspection date</b>	11 August 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Moira Oliver
<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 2004 and lives with her family in a village close to Woodbridge. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding with the exception of the master bedroom and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding seven children under eight years, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children and attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a rabbit as a pet.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted and cross-infection minimised because there are effective procedures in place. For example, good hand washing routines take place and nappies are changed and disposed of appropriately. Babies and very young children are provided with clean bedding for day time sleeping and the toys and areas used by the children are clean and well maintained.

Suitable action is taken when children are ill and parents are contacted. The childminder ensures that she has an up-to-date first aid certificate and the first aid box is stocked appropriately. However, written parental permission to seek emergency treatment or advice is not in place, potentially putting children at risk.

Children's good health and their understanding of healthy food is promoted as they enthusiastically plant and care for salad and vegetables on a plot of land. They are encouraged to try a range of new tastes as they eat the fresh produce and learn valuable information about where plants grow and what they need to enable them to thrive. They share the fresh produce with their own families as they take bunches of carrots home.

Children enjoy fresh fruit and vegetables on a daily basis through regular snacks and meals. They are provided with a variety of healthy and nutritionally balanced meals and children enjoy helping to prepare their own meals as they fill wraps with chicken and cheese before rolling them up. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children's specific dietary needs are met, for example, one family has chosen to provide a list of food their child eats for the childminder to work from. Children have access to drinks throughout the day to ensure they are hydrated.

Children have opportunities to rest and sleep according to their needs and home routines. They enjoy physical activities as they use bikes and scooters in the garden and visit play centres where they use soft play equipment. They enjoy fresh air and exercise as they go for walks in the forest to collect leaves and pine cones and play in the local park.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, safe and secure environment. The childminder is aware of potential hazards and has made her home safe for young children. For example, stair-gates are used and kitchen cupboards and drawers have catches to protect children from items such as cleaning products and sharp knives. Windows have been made safe with opening restrictors and the premises are secure, ensuring children cannot leave them unsupervised. Children's safety in the case of a fire is promoted, there are interlinking smoke detectors on every level of the house and the childminder has taken advice from a fire officer and discussed emergency evacuation with the older children, to ensure they know what to do in an emergency.

Children use safe and suitable toys and equipment. All equipment is in good condition and checked daily for damage, removing any items which are broken. Small items are kept out of the reach of babies and young children. Older children understand that small items can be a choking hazard and therefore dangerous to a baby. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they use chairs carefully to reach the counter to make their lunch and tidy the toys away after use so they do not trip over them.

Children are kept safe on outings, they stay close to the childminder and hold hands when crossing the road. They sit in appropriate car seats when travelling in a car and wear harnesses in buggies.

Children are protected because the childminder understands her role in child protection and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities and confidently choose toys and equipment from the resources available. For example, children select puzzles and enjoy making a large floor puzzle. They access role play resources for their imaginary game of 'childminders', putting dolls into the prams and turning the play tent into a house. Children have many additional opportunities to be creative making items such as sand pictures and badges with pens, glue and glitter and they proudly show their drawings they made earlier.

Children are interested in the resources and enjoy playing games together. The childminder supports their play by getting involved, she encourages them to think for themselves with a deduction card game where they give each other clues to find out the identity of a hidden card.

Children take part in valuable learning experiences as they go on outings to the forest collecting leaves and pine cones. They tend to their own vegetable plot, sowing, caring for and harvesting the vegetables and salad. Younger children enjoy visits to a toddler group and a story-time group where they have opportunities to play alongside children of a similar age and take part in group activities.

Children benefit from a childminder who expertly shares her attention between all the children present, supporting them, talking to them, suggesting ideas and valuing their contributions. All children, including babies and very young children are relaxed and happy in her company. Babies smile and make sounds as she talks to them giving them cuddles and providing opportunities for them to sit and watch the others, they lay and kick their legs and explore a range of baby toys.

Children make positive relationships with each other, sharing the toys and completing puzzles, taking turns to ensure they are both involved. Older children support younger ones, talking to them and explaining how to play the games.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with a welcoming and friendly environment where they can choose their activities and make their own decisions. Children are confident, happy and relaxed in the company of the childminder and know each other and the families very well. The childminder knows which activities the children enjoy and plans her resources accordingly.

Children are cared for by a childminder who works very closely with the parents to ensure all children are included and their individual needs met. Close, trusting relationships are built and information is shared daily. The parents are very happy with the care and education their children receive and have written very positive letters of reference. They report that their children are always happy to attend, they comment on the safe, warm and happy environment and that health and safety procedures are thorough. Detailed information is recorded about the children when they start, however, written contracts are not in place for all children and written parental permission is not in place for some situations. For example, for children to travel in the childminder's car, to be taken on outings, to have sun-cream applied or to be in photographs taken by the childminder.

All children have access to all the toys and equipment and some resources reflect positive images of diversity, however, this is an area which the childminder is aware she could improve on.

Children understand reasonable behaviour because they know their boundaries and what is expected of them. Age appropriate strategies are in place to promote positive behaviour and the childminder remains calm and uses explanations to help the children to understand.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by a childminder who organised her time, space and resources well ensuring children's needs are met and they can make good progress. She provides a wide range of activities and experiences for the children to take part in using good quality toys and equipment.

The childminder works directly with the children providing lots of loving support and attention. Appropriate ratios are maintained so that children are able to form firm relationships and become confident. She is aware of their safety and supervision at all times.

Documentation is kept to enable the childminder to provide appropriate care and learning for all children. Paperwork is stored confidentially and information is shared with the parents as they work in partnership. The childminder's registration certificate is shown to all parents when they first start, however, it is not on display.

Overall, the needs of the children are met.

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

Not applicable, first inspection.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration. 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):

- ensure there is a written agreement with parents which sets out the expectations of both parties as to the care of the child, activities provided and business arrangements for all children
- ensure that appropriate signed consent forms are kept
- ensure written parental permission is requested, at the time of placement, to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical treatment or advice in the future
- comply with conditions of registration with regard to displaying the registration certificate.

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)