



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	161771
<b>Inspection date</b>	08 November 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Beverley Blackburn

<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 for nearly twenty four years. She lives with 1 grown up child in a detached house close to the centre of Malmesbury. Minded children have access to the whole of the ground floor. There is also a fully enclosed garden. The family have 1 dog who resides in the house, 2 cats and a tank of fish. She is a member of the local childminding support group.

She is registered to look after 6 children under the age of 8 years at any one time. She currently cares for 4 children part-time.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a good range of physical activities that include the use of the garden and regular visits to the local park and walks to the local play group and school. Each day there are opportunities and activities to help children enjoy physical play and to develop control of their bodies. Children learn to listen to their bodies and can rest and be active according to their needs.

Children are helped to understand simple good health and hygiene practices. They are encouraged to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating. Children are aware that clean hands help prevent the spread of bacteria.

Children benefit from snacks and lunches that are nutritious and healthy, such as fresh fruits and sandwiches. They are provided with drinks throughout the day which are easily accessible to them. The childminder takes account of the children's preferences and parent's wishes. The meals provided by the parents are appropriately stored, for example yoghurts and sandwiches are stored in the fridge. Children are encouraged to develop their social skills by eating their snacks and lunches together at the table.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children's safety is maintained through the childminder sound understanding of how to minimise potential hazards around the home. Children are able move around the house safely. The childminder helps children to keep themselves safe outside of the home, by ensuring they cross the road safely; she encourages them to look and listen before crossing. The children also benefit from a suitable emergency evacuation procedure in place.

Children independently select activities from a range of good quality toys and equipment, which the childminder carefully monitors and supervises.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure she promotes and safeguards children welfare. She is willing to further increase her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues by attending an advance child protection course.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy with the childminder; they are settled and feel a sense of belonging.

Children relate well to one another and socialise with other children through regular attendance to the local play group. Children enjoy their time at the group as they confidently select what they want to play with from a wide selection of activities. The children were observed thoroughly enjoying the singing session at the play group. This helps to increase their communication skills

and build their confidence. Children are provided with a range of activities that contributes to their learning and development.

They experience outside activities such as planting vegetables from seeds in the garden and watch them grow. Such activities help to increase the children's learning opportunities. Children have the opportunity to ask questions with positive response from the childminder. The children learn to become independent and gain self-esteem through making positive choices in a positive environment.

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

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed and feel valued as individuals and are cared for in a welcoming environment. Children with special needs are well supported and their individual needs met through the childminder working in partnership with the parents. The children have access to good range of activities that is suitable for both boys and girls. Children are helped to appreciate and value other's differences and similarities through some resources such as books; however, the childminder does not have sufficient resources to effectively promote cultural diversity and disabilities. Children learn about the local community as they visit places such as the library; museum; toddler's group and the local park.

Children play together well and show care and concern for each other as they learn to share and take turns. They behave well. The childminder uses appropriate methods for managing children's behaviour effectively, such as distraction; removing the child from the situation and encouraging children to apologise when they hurt each other. She also promotes positive behaviour through praise and encouragement.

The childminder keep the parents well informed through regular feedback at the end of each day.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are suitably protected because the childminder demonstrates good knowledge and understanding of the needs and development of the children. She has sound regard for the well being of the children and make sure their individual needs are met. Children safety is maintained as a result of a suitably well-organised setting. Children have access to suitable space to play freely without restriction and are relaxed and happy in a secure and safe environment. The children benefit from the childminder maintaining an appropriate child to adult ratio which positively support their care, learning and play. All the required policies and procedures are in place and are effectively used to promote the welfare and safeguard the children. The childminder meets the needs and range of the children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked, to ensure that stairs are inaccessible to children so that they do not pose a hazard to them; to ensure the garden is safe and children

are protected from water hazards. In addition, the childminder was given an action to ensure children can play safely outside.

The childminder has since put a stair gate in place to prevent access to the stairs; she has also ensured there is no water in the garden accessible to children that may cause danger to them. The garden is fully enclosed and appears to be safe for children to play. Children's safety is maintained through the childminder taking the appropriate actions.

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints records 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):

- increase the range of resources available to children that promotes cultural diversity and disabilities

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)