



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	148251
<b>Inspection date</b>	23 February 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Claudia Padfield
<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 1989. She lives with her husband and adult daughter. They live in a house in a residential road in Woodley which is situated south of Reading. There are local amenities within walking distance including local shops, parks, pre-schools and schools. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding with children only using upstairs for sleeping and the toilet. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding five children. She supports children with special educational needs

The family has a rabbit, and four cats .

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She runs the local group for carers and children.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children have access to a broad, interesting and challenging variety of activities, which they enjoy and promotes their good health. They develop control and co-ordination, through activities such as, regular use of the garden; and outings to parks and other local facilities further improves physical skills.

The childminder encourages children to develop good hygiene routines through supporting them to wash their hands and wipe their noses. The childminder ensures good levels of hygiene when changing nappies. For example, cleaning the changing mat after use, which helps to prevent the spread of infection. Children develop good self-care skills by learning the importance of washing their hands before meals.

Children have their health and dietary needs met because the childminder works well with the parents. The childminder ensures the food she provides for the children, is appropriately prepared, heated and served so children can begin to feed themselves. Excellent documentation is shared with the parents which identifies the food groups in each meal. Mealtimes are a very sociable occasion as the children and childminder sit around a table together. Good manners are valued and the childminder sets a good example. Children help themselves to drinks throughout the day, as the childminder ensures their beakers are accessible and asks the younger children at regular intervals if they are thirsty. This helps to increase their independence skills as well as meeting their needs for regular drinks.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Risk of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder is extremely vigilant and has a thorough understanding of how to complete daily risk assessments to reduce potential hazards. Children receive a high level of supervision within the home. She has extensive procedures in place to ensure children can play in a safe and secure environment; for example, she records when she tests the smoke alarm.

Toys and resources appropriate to the children's age and stage of development are available and children self-select and make choices from the comprehensive range accessible to them. The childminder sources other outlets to help increase the variety of toys and experiences available to the children; she has high regard for children's safety.

The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare and development through regular communication with parents, concise and comprehensive written policies and procedures, this ensures that all required documentation is accurately completed and in place.

The childminder has a first aid certificate and is consequently able to deal with minor accidents and incidents effectively. The childminder has an excellent awareness of the signs and symptoms

of child abuse. She has attended training to increase her knowledge. She has extensive procedures in place to ensure the welfare and safety of the children at all times.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well settled and very at home in the childminder's house. They are confident and relaxed with the childminder, thus providing them with a secure base on which to build and learn about the world in which they live. The childminder is warm and affectionate making children feel comfortable and valued. She has a sound relationship with the children, enjoys their company and knows them well. Outings on most days include visits to local parks and toddler groups; this provides children with opportunities to socialise within a wider group. The childminder and parents share daily information on the children; this effectively provides an environment that allows children to make consistent progress in their development.

Children thrive because the childminder has a good knowledge of child development. Interaction between the childminder and children develops good levels of self esteem and confidence. The childminder will develop her knowledge of Birth to Three Matter further. She plans a range of age and stage appropriate activities for example child present enjoys sorting the sticking shapes emptying them in and out of the containers and sticking the shapes on the plate to make a face.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder knows each child extremely well; she treats them with respect and values the children as individuals; this ensures the children are extremely settled and comfortable within the home. She plans a flexible range of activities to suit the individual children's preferences and the ages and stages of development. The childminder acts as a very good role model to children. She is calm, patient, positive, and consistent. Children receive constant praise and encouragement in their play. They approach the childminder readily. It is evident that she promotes high levels of self esteem through praise and support.

The childminder demonstrates an excellent understanding of caring for children with learning disabilities although none were present at the inspection. She has a range of systems in place to ensure they are fully included in the life of the setting. The childminder has a positive understanding of all equal opportunities issues; she helps children develop an awareness of their own and other cultures. For example, they regularly attend a range of activities within the local community and socialise with other childminders. Through these regular outings the children are developing a sense of place and learn about where they live.

Children's behaviour is exemplary; they are lively and curious and very polite. High expectations and consistent boundaries help develop children's sense of right and wrong, helping them to take responsibility for their own behaviour. Children respond positively to requests from the childminder and are eager to help and please. Praise and encouragement from the childminder

builds children's self-esteem. Children develop a strong sense of self through this positive attitude.

Relationships with parents are excellent; this contributes greatly to the children's wellbeing. Children's achievements and information about their day are shared with parents through daily discussion and with the younger children the childminder provides individual daily information sheets. This enhances opportunities for parents to be fully informed in their child's learning and the time they spend with the childminder. Consequently, children show a real sense of pride in their achievements, gain high levels of self-esteem and develop new and positive friendships in the childminder's care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder makes good use of the available space within the home. Children are very happy and settled, they move freely and confidently around all areas of the home identified for childminding. Children are independent and can easily access the range of toys and resources available. The childminder ensures they have opportunities for active play and quiet times within their daily routines.

The childminder shares the policies and procedures in place with parents to ensure they are fully aware of the service she provides. She holds most of the required documentation to ensure children's health, safety and welfare; however, she does not hold written emergency medical consent. The childminder has a sound awareness of the individual children through the documentation she holds, verbal communication and personal knowledge of the families. Children gain from the relationships and verbal communication that takes place between the childminder and the children; warm relationships are evident. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

#### **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 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 emergency medical consent is sought from parents
- extend knowledge and use of the Birth to Three Matters Framework

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)