

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY225105
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 June 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Sheila Collins
<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 2002. She lives with her partner and four children aged nine, eight, seven and one year in Harwell near Didcot in Oxfordshire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding with the first floor only being used for bathroom and rest facilities.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time and can offer overnight care for two children aged under eight years. She is currently minding 18 children on a part time basis. Of these children, eight are under school age including two sets of twins; 10 children are school aged and are cared for either before or after school; three of these children being over the age of eight years. The childminder takes children to and collects them from the local school, pre-school and nursery. The childminder attends local toddler groups and takes children to the park and to play on the green. The family have a pet rabbit.

The childminder is a member of the TRIO approved childminding network but does not offer funded early education.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children learn about good hygiene procedures through every day events. The childminder has excellent practices in place herself and ensures that these are followed by the children. The childminder has her own washing hands procedure, and consistently protects children from cross-infection by providing each child with their own hand towel, on a hook they can easily reach or by using paper towels. The childminder holds all of the required documentation to accurately record all accidents and administration of medication. She has a valid first aid certificate in place to ensure she can deal with minor accidents effectively which promotes children's well-being at all times.

Children are beginning to develop an awareness of healthy eating. The childminder follows guidelines from her training in food hygiene to ensure that surfaces and appliances are clean and used appropriately. She provides sample menus for the parents to see if they wish her to provide snacks and meals for their children and displays a weekly menu. All dietary requirements are fully discussed with parents prior to their child starting. The children have access to drinks when they need them. The childminder ensures the younger children's cups are readily accessible on the kitchen unit.

Children have access to an excellent variety of activities, which they enjoy and promote their good health. The childminder considers the individual routines of the children when planning activities and children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs. The children are able to develop their physical skills in a wide range of activities on a daily basis. For example, playing in the garden, going for walks and using the various play apparatus in the nearby park. This helps to develop their coordination and physical abilities.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a well-maintained home where risks are identified and minimised. The childminder has an excellent understanding of how to ensure the children's safety both within the house and outside. Children are able to move around safely and freely between rooms in a homely environment. The childminder has comprehensive risk assessments in place which include weekly testing of the smoke alarms.

The childminder displays the children's work in the kitchen which shows the children that it is valued. Children use an excellent range of well-maintained toys and equipment, all of which are stored safely and accessed easily. The childminder supervises children's choices of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. The childminder has equipment suitable for the age and stage of the children attending, including a high chair, travel cot, buggies, stair gates and car seats.

The childminder encourages the children to be aware of their own safety for example by arranging for the fire service to visit and carrying out a project on this. Also since the recent safety legislation concerning child safety restraints when transporting children in a car, she has put into place a height marker so that all children can see if they are tall enough not to need a booster seat. Children are very well protected by the childminder who has an excellent understanding of child protection issues. She understands her responsibilities towards the

children in her care and is aware of signs and symptoms of abuse. She understands the procedures to follow, and has attended safeguarding children training to ensure that children are well protected.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The children clearly enjoy their time with the childminder. They settle well, are confident and relate well to each other and adults present. They benefit from the childminder's planning, which ensures an excellent variety of activities are available throughout the week, both in and out of doors. The childminder plans each day according to the needs of the children attending and completes an activity planner for the parents to see.

Interaction between the childminder and children is excellent; she consistently sits with the children on the floor encouraging their play offering guidance and support when required. She is skilful in encouraging children's early communication skills. For example, talking about the colours and shapes of the toys the children are playing with, asking them to repeat the name and colour of the shape. She also encourages them to count and to estimate what is needed, for example when planning the pretend picnic. The children are able to direct their own play and learning, take part enthusiastically in activities and are well occupied.

Older children who attend before and after school have age and stage appropriate resources and make creations out of items such as Hama beads. They are involved with the daily routine as they discuss the weather daily and have opportunities to learn about the wider world, for example through the plotting of where people have been on holiday on the maps on the kitchen wall. They contribute ideas for the activities and involve the younger children in their play.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a good range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and to help children to begin to understand different cultures, for example, a range of books and an ongoing project on the countries of the world.

Children's behaviour is very good due to the childminder's consistent approach in promoting positive behaviour. Children are given opportunities to settle any minor disputes themselves and the childminder rarely has to step in. Good use is made of praise and encouragement through play and everyday activities to promote children's self-esteem and confidence.

Relationships with parents are excellent which significantly contributes to children's well-being. Some parents have written in support of the childminder and it is obvious from these letters that they appreciate the service she provides. Parents receive a booklet about the service and comprehensive written policies. All the required written permissions are in place and the childminder regularly updates the parents with any events such as the recent outbreak of chicken pox, so that they can make informed decisions as to whether they will send their child. Contracts are in place with the majority of parents but not all. The childminder keeps a portfolio on each child which shows their progress and the parents see these. In addition she discusses verbally with the parents their child's day and also keeps a written two way communication book for the baby in her care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. All children benefit from the childminder's excellent organisation of the day. She arranges the available space to maximise the play areas for the children and they move around safely with independence under effective supervision.

The childminder has an excellent range of comprehensively written policies and procedures in place. They address each of the National Standards and have a positive impact on children's safety and well-being. All mandatory documentation is in place and regularly reviewed and updated. However not all parents have a written business agreement with the childminder. The childminder is thorough in her record keeping and ensures her records are purposeful and effective. She keeps detailed records and observations of children's progress in individual portfolios, so ensuring children are fully supported in reaching their potential.

Since registration, the childminder has attended training courses to gain professional qualifications and to extend her knowledge of young children. The children benefit from her knowledge and experience, which she uses to ensure their ongoing well being, safety, care and education.

The childminder's registration, public liability insurance and other information for parents are displayed along with the parents' poster in the kitchen, to ensure that parents are aware of these.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection three recommendations were made. These were to ensure children are familiar with evacuation procedures; ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice with particular regard to both genders and to provide children with resources to use during dressing up and role play activities.

The childminder has made good progress in addressing these recommendations. She has a written fire evacuation plan which she discusses with the children and tests her smoke alarms weekly. The children select for themselves resources and activities and these include items such as different colour and gender dolls, books, puzzles and play food. The children have access to dressing up clothes which they use mainly in the play house and accessories such as different foods, tea sets, when taking part in role play.

## **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 that a written agreement is in place with all parents which sets out the expectations of all parties as to the care of the child, activities provided and business arrangements.

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)