

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY273961
<b>Inspection date</b>	11 July 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Miriam Sheila Brown

<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 outstanding. 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 2003. She lives with her husband, also a registered childminder, and their two children aged five and ten years. They live in a four-bedroom detached house in the Haydon Wick district of Swindon. There are shops, schools and parks within walking distance of the home. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and there are currently 11 children on roll. Most areas of the home are used for childminding with the exception of the master bedroom. There is an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered for overnight care and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children develop independence in their personal care because the childminder uses effective routines such as, encouraging children to wash their hands before eating, and after using the toilet, play in the garden, or messy play activities. These routines help children to understand

how to keep themselves healthy and are supported by provision of easily accessible soap, paper towels and individual toothbrushes and paste in named cups. Children show, through conversation, they understand the reasons for washing hands, wearing sun hats and using sun cream, for example, "to stop our skin from getting sore". Risk of cross infection is minimised because nappy changing procedures are managed effectively and the premises clean and well maintained. The childminder has up-to-date first aid training enabling her to manage accidents appropriately. Accident, illness and medication policies and records provide clear information and guidelines for parents.

Children benefit from excellent opportunities for physical play. Throughout each day they use a range of small resources such as, jigsaws, craft tools, the computer and a chalk board, which assist very effectively in developing their small muscle control. In the garden children use a wide range of equipment such as crawling tunnels, play houses, balls and push along toys. Regular visits to the park enable them to extend and develop their climbing and balancing skills. Inside children move confidently from one room to another and independently access toys and equipment.

Snack and meal times are pleasant social occasions that are thoroughly enjoyed by children. Their independence is very well supported as they use cutlery and crockery appropriate to their age and either sit on dining chairs, or in high chairs, at the family table. All meals are freshly prepared and planned to take good account of children's dietary requirements, likes and dislikes. For example, one child prefers a particular variety of pasta and this is prepared for him. Drinking water is freely accessible throughout the day in individual bottles or lidded cups, depending on each child's individual abilities. Children help to prepare their snacks. They have many good opportunities to make choices from a wide variety of fruits and other snack foods. Cooking activities further enhance their knowledge about food and healthy eating.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Risks of accidental injury are minimised because safety within the home is a very high priority. All visitors to the home are logged, as are fire drills, which are regularly practised with children to ensure they are familiar with evacuation procedures should an emergency arise. The childminder finds innovative ways to increase children's awareness of safety outside the home. For example, she has recently hired play traffic signals, lollipop-people dressing-up clothes, and road maps, to use in the home and then children practise what they have learnt on local walks. The childminder and her husband supervise children very well throughout the day whilst still giving them freedom to make choices and explore. She gently reminds them to take care using the swing seat in the garden and not to run in the house. Detailed and regular risk assessments are completed for the home and garden and are available for parents to see.

Children enjoy playing safely in the home, either in the garden, sitting room, dining room, conservatory or the kitchen for messy activities. All are well maintained and invitingly decorated with photographs of children at play, individual paintings and models. Children develop their independence as they freely access resources which are stored invitingly on low shelves in the conservatory and sitting room. Toys and equipment offer a wide variety of play opportunities and are appropriate to children's differing ages and stage of development.

Children's welfare is further safeguarded and promoted through the childminder's comprehensive knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and procedures. These are clearly

documented in a detailed policy that is given to parents at the start of a childminding arrangement.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children and parents are greeted warmly by the childminder and her husband and are happy and settled in their care. Children confidently join in with what ever is happening when they arrive, for example, singing along to familiar nursery rhymes and joining in with the actions, or practising newly found walking skills. Throughout each day the childminder makes good use of the variety of play areas available, for example, the sitting room for music and stories, the conservatory for free play, the dining room for table-top activities, and the kitchen for messy play.

Children have many excellent opportunities to explore using their senses through activities such as listening, singing and dancing to music, painting and craft activities, cooking, imaginative play with dressing up, outdoor play and construction. Spontaneous activities such as going out to splash in puddles after a shower of rain and planting beans and watching them grow, helps children to learn about the world around them and provide them with a sense of wonder.

The childminder makes excellent use of 'Birth to three matters' guidance to help her plan a broad range of exciting and stimulating activities to assist children in their development. Both she and her husband demonstrate a clear understanding of how this guidance compliments the next stages in children's learning, and she plans activities accordingly. For example, whilst helping children with jigsaws, she talks about the sounds of the letters displayed and helps them identify numerals. She animatedly tells a story which children act out using finger puppets and the puppet theatre. Children relate very positively to each other and play well together.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The partnership with parents and carers is of extremely high quality. Parents and children are greeted warmly by the childminder each morning assisting positively with settling and separation routines. The 'Parents Handbook' provides them with clear and comprehensive information about the setting and they are encouraged to spend time each day chatting with the childminder and her husband. Parents views are valued and acted on through detailed questionnaires. Discussion with parents demonstrates very strong support for all aspects of the care provided, and particularly highlight the benefits of the flexibility of the care offered. This is reinforced through regular newsletters that remind them about specific aspects of care and organisation. The childminder and her husband are welcoming and friendly and children keen to come to the setting each day. This excellent partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well-being.

The childminder demonstrates an excellent understanding of children's individual needs. Children's details are clearly documented and regularly updated with parents helping to ensure continuity of care for all children. Throughout activities children learn about their community and the wider world as they visit local places of interest and play with a wide variety of resources reflecting positive images of race, culture and disability. Children celebrate various cultural festivals during the year in their craft work, meal times, books and music, helping to increase their awareness of different lifestyles.

Children with additional needs are expertly assisted by the childminder who employs a range of methods to encourage and develop their inclusion, for example, taking a sign language course to help children communicate when reluctant to speak. Children are very well behaved and flourish within the clear and consistent boundaries set by the childminder. Distraction and explanation strategies are used appropriately depending on the age of the child concerned. They learn about right and wrong as they are encouraged by her to think of others whilst sharing toys and resources, and helping to create their own rules for acceptable behaviour. The childminder uses praise in a positive and meaningful way and provides a strong role model for children.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder and her husband, with whom she works, are well qualified and have completed a number of training courses since registration, to support and develop their practice. Minimum ratios are met or exceeded throughout the day and support in the form of emergency cover is in place.

Effective and high quality documentation is jointly produced by the childminder and her husband, for example, records of meals, sleep times, activities, accidents and medications are extremely well organised and shared with parents. Policy and procedures are given to parents at the start of an arrangement and they are asked to sign to acknowledge they have read these. Children's details are stored appropriately to maintain confidentiality.

The childminder's commitment to continue to provide high quality care is clearly demonstrated because recommendations from the last inspection have been successfully addressed. The childminder and her husband work well together to provide for the children in their care. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that children's attendance details are completed regularly and include actual times of attendance. She also agreed to make sure the temperature of the conservatory was suitable for young children.

The childminder has effectively addressed both of these recommendations. Attendance records clearly show children's time of arrival and departure and the conservatory now has a fan which is used in warmer weather to ensure children's comfort.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since April 1 2004, 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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)