

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	105437
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Elizabeth Juon

<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 registered in 1978. She lives with her husband in Slough. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is available for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder's registration is to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and she is currently minding five children attending on a full-time and part-time basis. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group and takes children to the park.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's continuing good health is protected because the childminder maintains a clean and tidy home. The childminder takes positive steps to minimise the risk of cross infection through a regular cleaning routine and for example, wearing disposable gloves when changing a nappy. Children are beginning to learn the importance of a personal hygiene routine after using the

toilet and before eating, enabling them to form good habits for the future. The childminder maintains a current first aid certificate to ensure children's wellbeing in the event of an accident.

Children enjoy regular opportunities to play outside in the garden where they develop their physical skills on larger play equipment. There is ample space and clean flooring in the home for younger children to crawl and begin to balance and walk by holding onto the furniture. The children walk with the childminder on daily outings and also travel occasionally by bus, providing plenty of opportunity for exercise in the fresh air.

Children have a nutritious diet of home cooked meals and healthy snacks of fruit and milk to drink. Their individual dietary needs are met in agreement with parents' wishes. Drinks are available so children do not become thirsty or dehydrated

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and comfortable environment using mostly the ground floor of the home. This supports children's independence effectively as children can manage their own personal needs in the downstairs bathroom facilities. Children are kept safe indoors and outside as steps are taken to minimise hazards and the childminder supervises children in the kitchen and garden to ensure their safety. However, some toiletries and cleaning products are within reach which compromises children's safety. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe on outings and follow simple rules such as, the road safety drill when crossing the road. Harnesses are used in the high chair and buggy to keep children secure and prevent them from falling out.

Toys and play materials are within easy reach for children and presented to be appealing. Items used by the children are in a good, clean and safe condition. The comfortable furniture provides a relaxing place to sit and younger children can sleep soundly in a travel cot placed in a quiet part of the house.

The childminder safeguards children's welfare as she has a clear understanding of possible indicators of abuse. She has recently attended a child protection course to update her knowledge and skills and has the current and correct procedures to follow to protect children if concerns arise.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a warm relationship with the childminder and show interest in the activities on offer. Children can play freely, choosing from the varied selection of toys set out for them. The play opportunities encourage children's progress in all areas of development. They can use their creativity and imagination in art and craft activities or dressing up. Resources enable children to develop fine motor skills by constructing for example, the brio train set. Children are beginning to learn important social skills meeting other children at the toddler group. They are taken on interesting outings into the local community and learn through first hand experiences on visits to the park, activity centres and travelling on the bus. Children show an interest in books and come to the childminder for a story and to look at the pictures. The childminder encourages communication and independence skills as the younger children are becoming skilful communicators and improving language. Children approach the childminder for physical comfort and reassurance which contributes to their sense of contentment in her

care. Children are confident in the childminder's home and settle well in to the daily routine for playing, eating and resting.

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

The provision is good.

Children have their individual needs met well by the childminder as she works closely with parents to ensure continuity of care between home and childminder. Children develop a sense of belonging through their positive relationships with the childminder and through the familiar daily routines. The children develop an awareness of their local community through trips to the park and other local amenities. There is a range of resources available that reflect diversity, helping children to develop an understanding of the wider world. The childminder provides an inclusive environment for all the children in her care; children are treated as individuals with equal concern.

Children behave well and the childminder is a positive role model. Children are developing acceptable ways to behave with support and guidance from the childminder. The childminder is patient with the children and her use of praise and encouragement fosters children's confidence and self-esteem.

Children benefit from the childminder's effective partnership with their parents. The childminder maintains all relevant information on children and parental consents are in place to safeguard children's wellbeing such as, permission to seek emergency treatment for children. There is a daily exchange of verbal and written information which ensures parents are fully consulted and involved in the care their children receive during the day.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder makes good use of the available space and organises the children's routine well by planning activities, outings and quiet times to rest during the day to meet the individual needs of the children. There is suitable child size furniture and equipment, such as a cot and high chair that ensure children's comfort in the home. However, hazards remain in the kitchen and bathroom within children's reach. The organisation of the toys presents an appealing, age appropriate choice for children allowing them to make decisions about their play.

The childminder and her family have undergone satisfactory suitability checks to ensure the safety and welfare of the children attending. Children are closely supervised at all times to keep them safe from people not vetted. The childminder maintains an interest in updating her knowledge and skills to provide appropriate care for children and attends training for example, first aid and child protection sessions.

The childminder provides an accurate record of children's attendance, maintains appropriate adult to child ratios and informs parents of the regulator's contact details. All required documentation is in place. These measures help to safeguard children's welfare. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last Care inspection the childminder was asked to provide an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote positive images of people in the wider world, monitor

temperature of rooms used by children, make available to parents contact details for Ofsted and procedure to follow if they have a complaint, update children's records regularly, obtain written parental consent for photographs and seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder has made improvements to resources and documentation. There is a selection of books and toys which promote positive images to children. A thermometer is regularly checked to ensure rooms are at a suitable temperature for children to rest and play in comfort. There is a system in place to update children's records on a regular basis and ensure that all required parental consents are in place prior to children starting. These changes to childminding practice ensure children's safety and welfare.

### **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):

- assess the risks to children in relation to accessible, hazardous items in the kitchen and bathroom and take action to minimise these

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)