

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	134868
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Hilary Elizabeth Tierney
<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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder lives with her family in a four bedroom, detached house in the village of Bloxham, a few miles outside of Banbury in North Oxfordshire. The ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. Local amenities within walking distance, include the village shop, local primary school, play parks, nursery and toddler group. The family have a cat and dog.

The childminder registered in October 2001. She may provide care for six children under eight years of age. The childminder currently has thirteen children on roll.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to learn satisfactory personal hygiene procedures. They are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. All necessary paperwork is in place for recording any accidents should they occur and any medication that may be administered to children. The childminder understands the importance of obtaining prior written parental

permission before administering any medication. All parental emergency contact numbers are in place should they be required. The childminder has a clear policy on the exclusion of sick children and this helps to prevent the spread of infection.

Children have regular access fresh air and exercise. They are able to use the enclosed garden for outside play. Suitable large physical play equipment is available to them. Children are regularly taken on walks and outings during their time with the childminder.

Children are beginning to learn about healthy eating. Snacks provided by the childminder include biscuits, drinks and fruit. Children have regular, easy access to drinks. They understand they may ask for more at any time. The younger children are offered drinks regularly through the day. Parents provide packed lunches for their children. The childminder has a suitable awareness about the individual dietary needs of children in her care.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into a warm, friendly environment where they are made to feel at home and safe as they play. The childminder ensures all children are aware of the resources are accessible for them all. Resources are balanced, in good condition and suitable for the children that are attending.

Children are safe both inside and outside the home. The childminder has in place all necessary precautions to reduce any potential hazards to children. Emergency evacuation procedures are practised regularly. Children spoken to understand the procedure and recall it precisely. Children are adequately supervised at all times. A suitable outings procedures is in place, which ensures children are kept safe when away from the home.

Children are adequately protected. The childminder has a clear understanding regarding the signs and indicators of abuse. Although she was unclear about the changes that have occurred to the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. The childminder does not routinely record and share with parents any existing injuries that children may have when they arrive.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive happily into the childminder's home. They are confident and settle quickly when their parents leave. All older children greet each other as they arrive. They interact and co-operate well together as they play. The relaxed atmosphere means children are happy with their environment. Children spoken to stated that they like coming and playing with all the toys, but like playing with the cooker best.

Older children organise their own games well and were observed playing happily together with Lego and later in the garden. They have a clear understanding that any toys they play with have to be kept out of the way from the younger children. All children understand they need to help tidy up, before going outside to play. The childminder interacts well with both the older and younger children. She talks with the younger child as she changes nappies and feeds them. A regular change of toys ensures younger children do not get bored and have a varied day. The childminder does not use the Birth to three matters framework to help her plan for the younger children's next stages of learning and development. Younger children are happy, settled and

content in the childminder's presence. She offers them plenty of reassurance and cuddles when required.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with equal care and concern. The childminder shows affection and care towards all children in her care. She is calm and caring in her approach as she talks with the children. She meets the individual needs of children in her care adequately. Resources that reflect the diversity within the community are easily accessible for children.

Children behave well. They are polite, caring and interact well with each other as they play. The older children show care and concern for the younger children and are aware that when playing with some toys, they need to be kept away from the younger children. Children understand the rules of the home and the boundaries they are set. Verbal agreements with parents ensure consistency between childminder and the child's home.

There is a good partnership with parents. Parents spoken to are very happy with the care provided and commented about how happy their children are to attend the childminder's home. The childminder completes daily diaries for the parents of younger children. Verbal communication is important to both childminder and parents and time is taken at the end of the day to discuss the child's day. The parents poster is given to parents when they start, this ensures they are aware of the regulators contact details should they need them. However, the childminder does not have in place a system for recording any complaints should they occur. All written parental permissions are in place.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has all legally required documentation in place for registration. She keeps records of children's actual attendance. Her registration certificate is displayed in the entrance hall, this enables parents to see her conditions of registration. The childminder understands the need to keep all documentation relating to her childminding business confidential. She is suitably organised with most paperwork. The childminder does not plan activities for the time children are with her. She allows children to free play and select their own games and resources. The childminder does not plan for children's next stages of learning and development through activity planning.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

The provider had three recommendations from the last inspection. These were to consider training opportunities to update child care skills and knowledge; introduce a system for organising documents and information relevant to childminding and reassess toys and play materials to ensure they remain in good condition and reflect diversity.

These have been completed successfully. The childminder has completed several training courses to increase her knowledge of child care skills. She has re-organised her paperwork and information regarding her childminding business, this is still in progress. Resources have been increased and are in good condition and reflect the diversity within the community.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since 1 April 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 satisfactory. 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 children's existing injuries are recorded and shared with parents
- improve knowledge and understanding regarding Local Safeguarding Children procedures
- develop further activities for the younger children in line with the Birth to three matters framework
- develop systems for the recording of complaints

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)