

Inspection report for early years provision

---

**Unique Reference Number** 107788  
**Inspection date** 10 January 2008  
**Inspector** Keriann Belcher

**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** 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 has been registered since 1994. She is registered to care for six children and is at present caring for eight for various hours before, after school and in the holidays.

She lives with her husband and two children, one an adult and the other aged 15 years, in a semi-detached house in a residential area of Chalfont St. Peter. The house is within walking distance of the village shops, pre-school, school and park. Only the ground floor of the property is used for childminding.

There is a garden available for outside play.

There are no pets.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained home. Children are developing good personal hygiene skills as hand washing is encouraged at appropriate times during the day. The childminder has good procedures in place to prevent the spread of infection. For example, children do not attend if they are unwell. Appropriate accident and medication records are maintained. The childminder has obtained parents consent to administer medication. The childminder has first aid knowledge which enables her to deal with an emergency appropriately.

Children enjoy the healthy and nutritious foods offered to them. Some parents provide food for their children and the childminder also provides meals as required. The childminder is fully aware of children's special dietary needs, which ensures that children remain healthy.

Children's physical health is promoted by the childminder. They benefit from playing outdoors in the garden, visiting local parks, places of interest and when walking to and from school as they take part in the 'walk to school scheme'.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment, where safety precautions are in place. Risk assessments are conducted of the home and records are maintained. The childminder has a good understanding of the importance of having an emergency evacuation plan in the event of a fire occurring. However, this is not practised with the children to ensure they know what to do in the event of an emergency. The childminder is vigilant about children's safety when outdoors. Older children understand about walking close by and holding hands when crossing roads.

The childminder ensures the furniture and play equipment is safe, clean and in good condition as she carries out regular checks. Space is organised to meet all the children's needs and enables them to play, eat and rest safely. Toys and play materials are stored so they are accessible to children enabling them to make choices about their play.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and understands the reporting procedures to follow if concerned.

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

The provision is good.

Children have access to a variety of play materials and thus, they make their own decisions about what they do. They enjoy expressing their creativity making butterfly pictures using a variety of media such as glue, pens and collage materials. The childminder rotates toys regularly to maintain children's interest and to help keep their play provision fresh. She makes suggestions for things that children might like to do and responds to their interests such as organising trips to a wild life park.

The children are confident and eager to discuss the play opportunities offered by the childminder. For example, they talk about planting daffodil or cooking gingerbread biscuits.

Children play well together, sharing and taking turns. Older children are developing caring attitudes as they play and allow the younger children to join in with their games.

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

The provision is good.

All children are treated as individuals and the childminder strives to ensure that their individual care needs are met. Resources are used which reflect positive images of culture and gender which enhances the children's understanding of the wider world.

Children's behaviour is good. The childminder gives clear rules and boundaries about what is expected, which is age appropriate to the different age groups. The childminder also praises children for their achievements and this helps build up self esteem and confidence.

The childminder recognises the importance of working with parents and respecting their wishes. Parents make positive comments about the service the childminder offers to their child which promotes effective relationships which benefit the children. Information and any significant events are shared verbally with parents daily.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The environment is comfortable and organised to meet the children's needs and as a result children are happy and settled in the childminder's home. Children are well supported by the childminder who has a flexible routine to include play activities and time for rest and relaxation after school.

She has a good understanding of the adult/child ratios and plans her daily routine to ensure she gives sufficient time to all children. She has all of the required documentation in place for the safe, efficient management of the provision.

The childminder attends further training to continue to develop her skills and keep herself updated with current information, such as the Early Years Foundation course.

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 was asked to conduct a risk assessment on the premises identifying actions to be taken to minimize identified risks. This has been completed and ensures that children's welfare and safety is protected.

### **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):

- practise the fire evacuation plan

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)