

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	116913
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 December 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Joanne Graham
<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 registered in 1995. She lives with her family in Reading, Berkshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, with toilet and sleeping facilities on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children, two are full time and two are part time. The childminder walks or drives to local schools and nurseries to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parents/carers groups regularly. The family have three cats.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Robust hygiene systems make sure children play in a very clean setting and minimises the risk of cross infection. Children have use of their own cups, plates and towels and have an excellent knowledge of good hygiene practices, such as using and then disposing of tissues and covering their mouths when coughing. The childminder's exceptional support and guidance helps children

gain an excellent understanding of hygiene and the ability to become increasingly independent in their personal care. For example, children are sensitively reminded to wash their hands and to flush the toilet when they access the bathroom alone. Children are safeguarded if they have an accident as the childminder has first aid training and the first aid box is easily accessible, well stocked and efficiently maintained.

Children enjoy varied and nutritious snacks, which meet special dietary needs, children's preferences and ensure they remain healthy. They receive these at suitable intervals and the childminder sensitively reminds the children to drink plenty of fluids. Food supplied by parents is suitably stored and attractively served. This helps to promote children's wellbeing. Children develop a positive attitude to physical activities and engage in a very good range that help keep them healthy. For example, dancing, bouncing on the trampoline and playing on large apparatus.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Effective use of comprehensive written risk assessments ensure children play in a very safe environment. For example, smoke alarms are checked monthly and batteries are changed annually. All these details are clearly recorded to support the childminder to maintain her high safety standards. Children play and move around safely in the setting and the risks of accidental injury to them are minimised because the childminder is extremely vigilant and reduces potential hazards. Children have easy and safe access to high quality, clean and age appropriate toys and equipment. The childminder ensures toys are suitable for the children's stage of development, are checked regularly, carry the safety standards and purchases them from reputable suppliers. Children benefit from effective safety measures in place. For example, a carbon monoxide detector, monitored access to the premises and suitably covered pond. They are becoming aware of how to keep themselves out of harm's way. They know they do not run inside and only enter the garden with the childminder.

The childminder supervises children very well, ensuring they are within sight or hearing distance at all times. Children stay safe on outings. They are suitably restrained when travelling in the car, and the childminder takes emergency contact numbers, mobile telephone, necessary supplies and carries a small first aid kit. Children's needs are safeguarded by good documentation, which is effectively maintained. The childminder is extremely pro-active with updating her knowledge of child protection and attends regular training. She accesses additional literature and documents to support her in her work and she is aware of her role and duty of care. This safeguards children's welfare effectively.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are at ease with the childminder; they are very settled, happy and comfortable. They enjoy each other's company and having fun together. They are beginning to form strong relationships with other children and the childminder and welcome the childminder's intervention into their play. Children develop confidence and self-esteem through constant praise, attention and encouragement given by the childminder. She provides stimulating, exciting and enjoyable activities, which all the children can participate and achieve. They all particularly enjoy sorting blocks into colours, shapes and numbers as the childminder makes this into a fun game. This helps to increase their mathematical skills in an exciting way. Children participate in activities,

which they engage at for extended periods, with enthusiasm and enjoyment. For example, one child completes a 250 piece puzzle and another child colours in a Christmas picture to display on the wall. They enjoy the variety of stimulating, interesting and age-appropriate toys and equipment available and self-select confidently and with self-assurance from the easily accessible equipment.

Children acquire new knowledge and skills increasing their language, maths, imaginative and creative development well. They eagerly request to sing and dance along to the Christmas DVD and listen attentively to the story at the end. They happily inform the childminder about their news and views and confidently share their ideas as they know they will be listened to. The childminder supports their development very well and moves their learning forward through effective questioning, being attentive to their needs and supporting their interests. The childminder has a comprehensive understanding of childcare frameworks and incorporates this into her practise effectively to support and increase children's learning and development.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children receive excellent care, developing a sense of belonging. They are valued, included in the play and have their individual needs met very well. Children talk happily about their home life and things that are important to them. The childminder works closely with the parents to ensure she follows the children's routines. She exchanges information about their child's day and achievements through verbal discussions, using the small communication notebooks and writing daily diary sheets. This encourages a good two-way flow of information, promotes continuity of care to the children attending and contributes significantly to the children's wellbeing. The childminder has a comprehensive knowledge of the complaints regulation and informs parents of the regulators details. The childminder encourages all children to participate in the activities provided and adapts these to include them all. This ensures children have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and potential.

Children become aware of the wider society through excellent support from the childminder. She provides regular opportunities for children to visit the local community and access a wide range of resources, which depict positive images of diversity. This fosters children's understanding of the wider world. Children's behaviour is very good and they learn important social skills, such as sharing and listening to each other. They are aware of the boundaries and the childminder is sensitive in the way she manages behaviour. She promotes positive behaviour very well through consistent praise and encouragement and is a good role model to the children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder gives the children excellent support, is attentive to their needs and provides a child-friendly, warm and welcoming environment. This contributes to children's enjoyment, achievement and ability to take an active part in the setting. She has high regard for their welfare and wellbeing and keeps minded numbers low to ensure she is able to provide excellent individual care. She attends to children's needs well and never leaves them unattended with persons not vetted. Children's care and enjoyment is greatly enhanced and increased as the premises are well organised, there is sufficient time for children to complete their self-chosen activities and indoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities.

The childminder uses robust record keeping systems effectively to ensure she promotes children's health, safety, welfare and individual needs. She ensures all regulatory documentation is well maintained and up to date, is stored securely and confidentiality is always maintained. Comprehensive written policies and procedures significantly support the childminder in her practical work and 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 inspection the childminder had recommendations to record existing injuries when a child arrives to the premises and to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. The childminder has attended recent safeguarding children training and has documentation to support and increase her knowledge. She has developed systems to ensure existing injuries are recorded and parents are fully aware of this procedure. This supports and promotes children's wellbeing 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 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)