

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	159028
<b>Inspection date</b>	04 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Margaret Davie
<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 was registered in 2001. She lives with her husband and four children aged six, eight, 15 and 17 in Woodley near Reading. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and the upstairs is used for sleeps. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five part time and two children over five after school. She also minds three children over eight after school. The childminder walks or drives to local schools and nursery schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler group. The family has two dogs.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to learn the importance of personal hygiene through good daily routines. Hands are washed and surfaces regularly disinfected to minimise the spread of germs. Children's

nappies are changed safely and in privacy, however, the childminder does not routinely wear rubber gloves when doing so, which increases the risk of cross infection.

Children are well cared by the childminder in the case of a minor accident or illness. This is because she has up to date first aid training, she keeps her first aid kit up to date and ensures all documentation to care for children is in place, such as permission to seek emergency medical care and advice if needed. Accident and medication records are correctly completed and always signed by parents. This ensures children's continuity of care.

Children develop their social skills through eating snacks and meals together at the table. Young children bring a packed lunch from home, which is supplemented by snacks such as fresh fruit and yoghurt. The childminder prepares meals for older children who stay until dinner time, using organic meat and fish and when possible fresh produce from her own garden. In this way she ensures that children receive healthy, nutritious food. Drinks are available at all times, allowing children to help themselves whenever they are thirsty.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Each day there are opportunities and activities to help them develop control of their bodies. For example, young children attend toddler groups regularly if the weather prevents them playing outside and they go on regular walks to and from school to pick up other children. They enjoy playing in the childminder's garden where there is a secure trampoline and a Wendy House for their use. Young children have plenty of room to practise their physical skills such as walking, rolling and crawling in the spacious lounge as well as developing their fine motor skills with a range of toys such as large Duplo blocks. They go on regular walks in the locality, often visiting the family's horses which are stabled nearby.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in the childminder's spacious and comfortable home, where risks are generally well identified and minimised. This means they are able to move around safely and freely. Young children usually play in the lounge area which is well organised to provide a large clear space for them to play and choose toys independently. However, the childminder has not identified the potential risk to children's safety from the large marble hearth, which is unprotected. Children also have access to the dining room, where they use the table for eating and craft activities. Older children, who are minded after school, have access to a quiet area where they can watch television, read or do their homework.

Children access and can choose from a range of toys which are carefully monitored to ensure they remain clean and safe for them to use. They select from a wide range to suit their needs and preferences such as building blocks, toy trains, books, soft toys as well as craft activities and games. Children are kept safe on outings because the childminder has a range of equipment to protect them such as buggies and appropriate car seats. She ensures they are always carefully supervised.

Although the childminder has an appropriate understanding of what to do if she were ever worried a child in her care was being abused as well as contact numbers in line with local Safeguarding Children Boards procedures, she has not ensured that all members of her family are vetted, once they reach the age of 16. This poses a potential risk to the welfare of children.

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

The provision is good.

Children are at ease, well settled and confident with the childminder. They learn through a variety of activities which the childminder offers, for example, reading, which supports their language development and simple number games, which supports their mathematical development. She carefully supports children's development and knows their individual needs well. For example, a young child who already has an excellent grasp of numbers, counting confidently to 10 and beyond is encouraged to learn the names of shapes by pulling them out of a bag and naming them. She makes this into an exciting and interesting game and as a result the child is enthusiastic, interested and making very good progress.

Children explore a wide range of activities which contribute to their overall development. For example, they visit the swings in the local park, make regular visits to the library and in the spring and summer grow and tend plants in the childminder's garden. The childminder spends time talking and playing with children, giving them good support in their play and other activities. Consequently, they make good progress in all areas of development.

Children relate well to the childminder and to one another. The childminder is very affectionate with children and clearly focuses on their needs, which makes them feel confident and secure. Young children have good opportunities to socialise with other children through regular attendance at the local toddler group. The childminder and parents exchange information daily, which clearly supports children's development.

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

The provision is good.

Children make themselves at home, confidently choosing toys and activities. Older children can relax or be active after school because the childminder has organised space well to provide a quiet area for them. Children are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning because they feel secure in the childminder's presence and trust her to provide them with support and guidance if they need it. For example, a young child confidently builds a very tall tower out of Duplo bricks looking to her for guidance when he finds it is too tall for him to reach the top.

Children behave well and show care and concern for each other. They play together harmoniously and learn to share and take turns because the childminder gives them a good role model to follow. She is consistent in her treatment of children and manages their behaviour with age appropriate strategies. As a result, children learn to respect one another and start to take responsibility for their behaviour. Children learn about their community on regular outings.

Relationships with parents are good, and contribute positively to children's well being. Daily diaries are prepared for young children, which keep parents well informed about their child's day and promote their continuity of care. Informal chats at the end of each day ensure there is a good two way flow of information which ensures the childminder is able to meet children's changing needs.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure family home in which they feel comfortable and at ease. The childminder supports their play and development well because she has organised her home well to give them ready access to toys and resources which interest them and give them the opportunity to self select according to their own preferences. However, children's safety is potentially at risk because she has not identified the potential risk of the fireplace hearth nor ensured that all adults living in her house have been vetted. Children's good health is well supported by routines and because relevant documentation is in place, however there is an increased risk of spreading germs because the childminder does not wear rubber gloves when changing nappies.

Children are comfortable and at ease in the setting. There is a varied range of activities for children of all ages and the childminder supports their play and learning well. Registers of attendance are properly recorded and the childminder ensures that adult ratios are always maintained. Daily routines are well structured but allow enough flexibility to allow young children to maintain their own routines. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the time of the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure confidentiality was observed whenever parents sign the accident or medication book. She has now put a system in place which records children's details on a single page to ensure that their confidentiality 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 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 the spread of germs is minimised when changing nappies
- ensure hearth is made inaccessible to children

- ensure any person over the age of 16 living in the household is vetted

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)