

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	153036
<b>Inspection date</b>	11 August 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Sheena Bankier

<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 has been a registered since 2000. She lives close to Oxford city centre. The ground floor of the house is mainly used for minding, with access to the first floor for sleeping purposes and toilet facilities. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight. There are currently five children under eight on roll who attend on various days and hours during the week. The childminder walks or drives to take and collect children from local pre-schools and schools. Local amenities are used with the children, which include the library, parks and toddler groups.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit and enjoy regular fresh air through local walks and visits to the park. Children develop their physical skills by using fixed play equipment at the parks and have access to climbing equipment and ride on toys at toddler group. They enjoy visits to soft play facilities and at the childminding home children sing action songs and rhymes. This ensures children are physically active, both in and out of doors.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate. This enables her to provide appropriate treatment to children. She has a suitable first aid kit which she checks regularly. This ensures the contents are appropriate for use. The childminder gains information from parents about children's health needs, such as allergies, medical conditions and dietary needs. This enables her to provide appropriate care for these needs. The childminder maintains records of children's accidents and keeps parents informed verbally. A small number of accident records have not been countersigned by parents as required by the National Standards.

Parents provide meals for children. These are stored appropriately to ensure they remain fresh. The childminder provides healthy snacks for children, such as fruit and toast. Children are offered regular drinks which ensure they remain hydrated. These include milk, water or very weak diluted squash and are agreed with parents. The childminder ensures she agrees with parents in relation to extra food, such as ice creams offered on outings. This ensures the wishes of parents are observed. The younger children's routines for sleeping and meal times are accommodated. This provides a secure daily routine to children and promotes consistency.

Children are cared for in a suitable, clean and well maintained environment. Most aspects of the childminder's hygiene procedures are satisfactory. However, some hygiene routines put children at risk of cross infection, for example, the childminder does not wash her hands in between changing children's nappies and leaves the used nappies on the floor before placing them in a suitable nappy sack for disposal.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a warm and welcoming environment where they can easily access the toys and play resources. This enables them to initiate their own play and ideas. The childminder rotates her resources to provide variety to the children. Children have access to age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. These meet the needs of the children which attend. The childminder maintains the toys and equipment through regular checks and cleaning. This ensures they remain in good condition for the children to use.

The childminder has made her home safe for children. She has appropriate safety equipment in place, for example, safety gates, cupboard and drawer catches in the kitchen and a fire guard. The home is secure, which ensures children cannot leave unsupervised. The childminder has working smoke alarms on both levels of the home which are regularly tested and has a carbon monoxide detector in place. An evacuation plan has been devised, which includes evacuation from the first floor in an emergency. Children are closely supervised at all times by the childminder. Children develop an understanding of their own safety, such as the childminder talking and explaining to them about their safety and crossing roads safely at designated crossings. This promotes children's safety.

The childminder understands how to recognise the signs and symptoms of abuse. She understands how to manage any concerns which arise and has information in place, such as local procedures and contact numbers. As a result, children's welfare is safeguarded.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled with the childminder. They enjoy good warm relationships with her and are at ease in her care. Children benefit from cuddles and chats with the childminder,

which promote their sense of security. The childminder provides good interaction with the children as she supports their development through encouraging their play and interest, for example, she talks about the colours of the crayons used. She encourages language and observational skills whilst looking at books, by asking questions and talking about the pictures. The younger children enjoy exploring and investigating the toys, for example, finding out what they do, the noises they make and the different textures they have. Children develop their imaginations as they play with the small world toys, such as the toy farm and cars.

Regular outings are undertaken which develop and support the children's social skills. Children visit the local toddler groups where they meet other adults and children in a safe environment. This also enables them to play with different toys and undertake new activities. The childminder uses local facilities, such as the library, shops and parks. This enables children to learn about the community they live in and to develop new skills, for example, as they use the park equipment or help find items in the shops. Outings further away develop children's knowledge and understanding of the world around them, for example, they learn about animals and farm life during outings to Millets Farm.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder understands the individual needs of children well. She exchanges information with parents daily to ensure she understands these needs and the parents' wishes. The childminder gains information about the children's backgrounds, such as languages spoken at home and religions. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. Equality of opportunity and positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability are promoted through the resources, such as puzzles, books and small world toys. Children meet people within the local community which develop their understanding of diversity. The childminder understands how to promote the care of children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The childminder provides clear boundaries and rules to children. Children develop understanding of behaviour expectations through explanations and discussion, such as reminding children to put the books back. Children's self-esteem and confidence is supported through praise and encouragement for their efforts and achievements.

Good partnerships with parents are in place. The childminder has developed good communication with them. She keeps parents well informed through verbal discussions and feedback. Good settling in procedures enable parents and children to develop secure relationships with her.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has undertaken the courses in line with the National Standards. She provides appropriate play resources, activities and outings which support the children's development. Children benefit from her warm care and attention and are at ease in her care.

Most aspects of the childminder's practice are overall suitable. However, some hygiene procedures put children at risk of cross infection. All required paperwork is in place, although some lacks the necessary detail and sufficient organisation. A record of children's attendance is maintained, although this is not promptly recorded. Some of the children's personal records only have their first names entered. As a result records are not clearly maintained. A small number of accident records have not been counter-signed by parents as required by the National

Standards. The children's records are not well organised, which potentially puts confidentiality at risk.

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 given three recommendations. These were to improve fire safety precautions by ensuring an evacuation plan is in place, to ensure all necessary insurance is in place when transporting children in the car and to extend the range of resources which promote equality of opportunity and reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability.

The childminder has addressed these by having a written evacuation plan in place which includes evacuation in an emergency from the first floor. This promotes children's safety. All required insurance is in place for transporting children in the car. This safeguards children. Resources are in place which promote equality of opportunity and reflect positive images of society. This develops children's understanding of diversity.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the 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):

- improve hygiene routines to prevent cross infection between children
- review documentation to ensure children's records contain their full names and accident records are counter-signed by parents
- ensure the children's attendance is promptly recorded
- organise children's records effectively and ensure confidentiality is maintained.

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)