



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	222462
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 November 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Lorraine Hunt

<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 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 lives with her husband and 2 children, one of whom is aged 14 and the other is over 16. They live in a large village to the north of Cambridge. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and an upstairs bedroom is available for sleeping. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The local area has good amenities for children, including play areas, toddler groups, library and pre-schools.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 2 children under 5, and 3 over 5 before and after school and

in the holidays. The childminder walks to the local school and pre-schools to take and collect children. She attends local toddler groups. The family has a pet rabbit and some goldfish.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA). She has regular contact with other local childminders.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted through the childminder's clear understanding of health issues and her effective hygiene practices. For example, she reduces the risk of cross infection by ensuring that her home is always clean and well maintained. Children are beginning to learn about keeping themselves healthy as they wash their hands before meals and after using the lavatory as part of well established hygiene routines. Clear procedures and records are in place to ensure that appropriate medical care is given and children's individual needs are met.

Children benefit from the childminder's understanding of healthy eating; their health and dietary needs are met through discussion with parents. Children are able to access regular drinks throughout the day which encourages healthy drinking practices. Their individual dietary needs are recorded and this ensures that their nutritional needs are recognised and met appropriately.

Children have regular opportunities to play outdoors, which contributes to their good health. They visit the local park to develop their physical skills and benefit from exercise and fresh air each day as they walk to school and pre-school. Good routines for active, quiet and sleep times ensure that children are well rested.

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

The provision is good.

Children are able to move around the indoor premises safely, freely and independently because the childminder supervises children closely and identifies and minimises risks for children; for example by ensuring all low level kitchen cupboards have child locks and electrical sockets are covered. Children learn about keeping themselves safe on local outings as the childminder reminds them of the importance of looking and listening as they prepare to cross the road.

Children use a suitable range of safe, good quality, developmentally appropriate resources which the childminder cleans and checks regularly to ensure they are safe and in good condition. Children are able to make independent choices from those provided each day; toys are rotated to offer variety, but children can ask for a particular favourite if it is not already available so that individual interests and preferences can be catered for.

Children are well protected because the childminder has all the required documents and procedures in place to promote their safety and welfare. For example, she holds a current first aid certificate and has a secure understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local Area Child protection Committee guidelines.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and establish warm and affectionate relationships with her, which contributes to their sense of security and belonging. Consistent support and meaningful praise and encouragement help children to develop good levels of confidence and self-esteem, to learn what they can do and to know when to ask for help. Children's language and thinking is developed and extended well through the childminder's positive interaction with them. For example, children respond to her open ended questioning by enthusiastically telling her all about what they have been doing at playgroup. They enjoy snuggling in for stories and children are confident to help tell familiar stories. Children's interest in words is being further stimulated through fun activities such as making up rhyming phrases such as " conkers bonkers".

Children experience a varied and imaginative range of activities, inside and outside the home, which contribute to their development. The childminder regularly plans activities using children's particular interests as a starting point so that children feel involved and learning is meaningful. Young children are able to develop their social skills because the childminder makes good use of local community groups to extend their range of experiences. Children of all ages enjoy visiting the library to share and choose books, and to use the computers, which provides them with additional learning opportunities.

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

The provision is good.

The effective partnership with parents and carers contributes towards the children's care, well-being and feelings of security. Written feedback from parents demonstrates their high regard for the childminder's practice, the range of activities she provides and the level of care and support she offers to all children. The childminder actively seeks parents' views about children's needs and interests before the child starts at the setting and keeps them well informed about their child's activities and ongoing progress through daily diaries and discussions.

Children's individual needs and personalities are clearly understood and respected by the childminder. All children are welcomed and included in the provision and have equal opportunities to access activities and resources that meet their individual needs so that they become confident and independent. Children develop self-esteem, respect for one another and a sense of belonging as they learn to share, take turns and to think about the effect that their actions have on others. Consistent expectations and routines help children to feel secure and strategies such as reward

stickers promote positive behaviour.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are comfortable, happy and at ease with the childminder and in the home environment; their needs are suitably met through good adult–child ratios and by the level of care and attention provided by the childminder. This means that they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Children benefit from the childminder's organization of time, space and resources and her active involvement in the local childminding group as they meet for activities that broaden the children's experiences.

Children benefit from the childminder's sound and secure knowledge of child development and of her legal duties. All required documentation is in place and regularly reviewed, which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being. The childminder is open to new learning to improve her childcare practice. The good quality of the provision means that the needs of all the children are well met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to make a risk assessment of the use of the paddling pool and to obtain written parental permission for children to use this. This has now been obtained, along with permission for children to use the trampoline. The childminder ensures that these resources are used only when numbers of children are low so that she is able to give her undivided attention to the supervision of these activities.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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.
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<b>WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?</b>
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### **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):

- continue to build on existing practice by providing parents with written information, including policies and procedures that underpin practice, to ensure that parents are well informed about children's care and learning.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)