

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY363921
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 August 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Melissa Cox
<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 was registered in 2007. She lives with her husband and two children aged six and two years in Didcot in Oxfordshire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and 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 can provide overnight care for one child aged under eight. She currently has nine children on roll. The childminder takes children to and collects from the local schools. She takes children to local toddler groups and on outings to the local park.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has excellent systems and practice in place to maintain a high standard of hygiene and care in her home. The home is scrupulously clean and robust policies and procedures ensure a healthy environment is provided where thorough hygiene routines prevent the spread of infection. For example, children have their own hand towels and toothbrushes, and there are clear agreements with parents that children are not minded whilst infectious. Children have

a thorough understanding of their personal care and describe openly how and why they must wash their hands before cooking, eating or after using the toilet to prevent the spread of germs and infection. Comprehensive procedures ensure that any accidents children have are managed appropriately as the childminder has a sound knowledge of first aid, available first aid equipment and clear recording systems.

The childminder is careful to establish children's individual dietary requirements and works closely with their parents to ensure that a healthy balanced diet is provided for each child. They have lots of fruit and vegetables as snacks and healthy drinking options, such as water, milk or juice ensure that their physical health is consistently well promoted. Children develop a considerable awareness of healthy eating through the imaginative use of activities, such as growing their own vegetables in the garden, which helps them learn about nutrition. Meals and snacks are eaten at the table to promote social skills and encourage good eating habits.

Children receive excellent opportunities for daily access to fresh air and exercise whether in the garden or on outings. The childminder ensures that she presents a varied range of stimulating indoor and outdoor experiences to enhance children's physical well-being. They use equipment to balance and climb, and sit and ride toys in the garden. They are taken to the local parks and child carer groups to play on other large physical equipment. Children relax and sleep according to their individual needs because the childminder plans her home and routines effectively to offer opportunities for rest and quieter times.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has organised her home effectively to provide a safe, stimulating environment where children feel comfortable and confident to make choices from a wide range of high quality resources for all ages. Thoughtful organisation of equipment and resources allow children to access these freely and safely, for example, toys and activities are stored within easy reach and child-sized furniture promotes independence and choice. Effective arrangements and a well devised risk assessment procedure ensures all play areas are safe and good security ensures children are not able to leave the premises unsupervised.

Children practise the childminder's emergency evacuation procedures and are confident of what to do in the event of a fire. A fire blanket, working smoke alarms and a carbon monoxide detector are suitably available and checked regularly which further ensures the children's safety. The childminder uses good procedures to protect the children when out and about away from the premises. Children use suitable car seats when travelling in her vehicle and she has a clear emergency plan should an accident occur when on an outing. Children are developing a good awareness of how to keep themselves safe when walking close to busy roads and traffic, as the childminder skilfully teaches them appropriate safety rules for crossing busy roads.

The childminder has a good working knowledge of the importance of safeguarding children and how to manage potential child protection issues appropriately. She has attended relevant training and has the local guidance available for use if required. She has established a clear written policy and ensures parents are fully informed of her responsibility to protect children.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder is warm and affectionate making children feel comfortable and valued. They all receive attention and genuine affection from the childminder and they are very secure. Their individual needs are well met because the childminder provides a good balance between active play and relaxing activities. Children develop their independence skills and show initiative as they choose their own resources and equipment located in easily accessible boxes.

Children's self-esteem and confidence are enhanced with the childminder's use of praise and encouragement. The childminder joins in with the children's play helping them and giving them lots of support, praise and encouragement when appropriate. Children respond to new challenges as the childminder encourages children to help tidy up, offering clear guidance and assistance where necessary. Children concentrate very well whilst playing and use their imagination well encouraged by the childminder's questioning and listening skills. Children acquire new knowledge and skills as the childminder answers their questions and provides challenging activities including knowing the interests of individual children and taking these forward.

Children are highly motivated and make use of exciting and appealing activities to learn and extend their knowledge. Children respond eagerly to effective questions from the childminder, for example, using daily routines and activities to use mathematical language, recognise colours and shapes which promotes the children's learning through play. They enjoy preparing and taking part in the mini Olympics and the childminder ensures that the range of planned activities meet all the children's learning needs. As a result children are making rapid strides in their learning.

The childminder takes great care to build positive relationships with the children which means they have a real sense of belonging and show concern for others. The childminder takes great care to find out what children can do and plans efficiently to ensure that they learn and develop well in her care. Their progress is observed, recorded and shared with their parents. Children flourish in this caring, stimulating, creative environment where they are highly valued as individuals and respond positively to the childminder's consistent use of praise and encouragement.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder is nurturing in her approach to behaviour, which creates a positive environment. Incidents are handled sensitively and children are positively encouraged to show concern for others when they are upset. The childminder talks to children at their level of understanding and uses lots of praise to promote good behaviour. Consequently, children are beginning to learn right from wrong. Children are extremely well behaved. Their manners are impeccable, they routinely say please and thank you, and have a careful regard for the safety and welfare of others.

Children are learning about the community in which they live and the wider world through an extremely well planned and organised range of activities and positive images accessible in the home. Children are highly valued and respected as individuals. A statement regarding equal opportunities is in place and this is effectively put into practice. The childminder ensures that all children have the same access to opportunities and resources in order to increase their awareness. The childminder is very positive about inclusion and ensures that an effective and

appropriate service is available for all the children in her care in order to meet their individual needs.

Children's care and welfare is thoroughly discussed and agreed with the parents which ensures that the childminder knows the individual needs of the children extremely well. A close working partnership with parents means that they are kept fully informed about the care, learning and development of their children. For example, she completes a record of the children's daily routines and achievements. This is complemented with daily verbal updates and regular photographs of the children at play. As a result, they are fully informed of their child's day.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children receive a high quality service because the childminder is self-motivated and proactive in seeking out further training to update her knowledge. Children benefit from the childminder's enthusiasm and commitment to her role. Space and resources are organised imaginatively and inspired activities provide children with interesting and exciting experiences to broaden their overall development. As a result, children are very relaxed and happy within the well organised environment the childminder has created. They are able to move freely around the downstairs areas in comfort and safety.

All relevant documentation is maintained to a good standard and kept confidential. A comprehensive policy file and parent pack is in place which is shared with parents. The childminder regularly reviews and updates her policies to ensure they continue to be relevant to the care she provides. She maintains confidentiality as all children's details are kept individual. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

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

Since registration 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)