



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY300332
<b>Inspection date</b>	16 November 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Susan Victoria May

<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 registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and two children, aged 4 and 7 years, in Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire. The whole of the premises is used for minding. There is a secure garden for outdoor play.

The childminder may care for 4 children and is currently minding 4 children on a part-time basis. The childminder is prepared to take and collect children from local pre-schools and schools.

The family have a rabbit to which the children have regular access.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy and develop increasing understanding about good hygiene practices through clear guidelines from the childminder and effective daily routines to prevent cross-infection. The childminder has clear appropriate documentation and written procedures in place, for recording medication and accidents, to protect children. She shares the information with parents.

Children have access to a broad, interesting and challenging variety of activities, which they enjoy and promote their good health. They develop new skills, control and co-ordination, through activities such as, drawing, colouring and negotiating wheeled toys along their chosen path. Regular trips and outings to parks and other local facilities further improve physical skills. Children are increasingly able to understand how their bodies work through activities and explanations from the childminder appropriate to their age. The childminder is knowledgeable on how best to support children's skills, develop their confidence and provide activities to help children progress at their own rate.

The childminder takes into account parents' wishes and provides nutritious meals and snacks in a social and relaxed atmosphere thereby setting a sound foundation for future eating habits.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a well-organised environment. This allows them to move around and play safely. They have easy and safe access to a good range of toys and resources appropriate for their age, which the childminder selects carefully to ensure they are suitable.

The premises are secure and procedures are in place, which the childminder shares with parents, to protect children. Children enjoy their play in a safe environment, most fire safety precautions are in place. The childminder completes regular risk assessments to reduce potential hazards and help keep children safe.

The garden play area is safe for children to enjoy fresh air and play with good quality equipment that is suitable for their ages and needs. The childminder walks regularly with the children and helps the children understand about keeping safe. For example, young children are secure in their buggies and older children learn about road safety.

The childminder safeguards the children's safety and welfare using relevant documentation and procedures. For example, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. The childminder has a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows what action to take if she has concerns about a child in her care. This ensures she is able to quickly recognise when a child is in danger and act in the

child's best interest.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The children are secure and supremely confident in the childminder's home, they settle well and are totally at ease in the setting. They relate well to each other, show each other care and consideration, play together and meet other children at local groups and pre-schools to socialise. The childminder provides an extensive range of appealing toys, which the children clearly enjoy, show considerable interest in, and promotes their development and learning in all areas. Children share toys with little or no prompting during their play. For example, they happily share and negotiate when playing games.

The childminder recognises the uniqueness of each child and is sensitive to their individual needs; children make excellent progress because of the effective support they receive. She spends time playing with them and listening to them in order to further their progress. For example, in communication skills, she is highly effective in developing language and extending thinking through questions and dialogue. Children learn about nature on their regular trips to the park and develop an awareness of looking after other creatures as they help to care for the rabbit that lives in the garden. Children's creative and imaginative development is encouraged through activities such as art and craft, painting, music and pretend play.

The childminder has an obvious understanding of providing children with an extensive range of experiences. She has not yet had access to the Birth to Three Matters framework or training; however, she demonstrates a thorough knowledge and a very good understanding of the needs of young children, helping them to make excellent progress in all areas.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder knows each child extremely well, she treats them with respect, meets their needs and values their individuality, this helps them to feel good about themselves. The childminder has a positive understanding of all equal opportunities issues, and this helps children develop an awareness of their own and other cultures. Some resources are available in the home that promote positive images. Children develop a sense of place and learn about where they live through regular outings within the local community. For example, to the park and library.

Children's behaviour is good; they are lively and curious, very polite and need no encouragement to say please and thank you spontaneously. High expectations and consistent boundaries help develop children's sense of right and wrong, helping them to take responsibility for their own behaviour. Children respond positively to requests from the childminder and are eager to help and please. Praise and encouragement from the childminder builds children's self-esteem. Children develop a strong sense

of self through this positive attitude. The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of working with parents and professionals to care for children with special needs.

Relationships with parents are friendly and professional; this contributes greatly to the children's wellbeing. The childminder shares with parents information about daily events and children's progress through verbal communication. The childminder shares written records only at parent's request. The relationship between parents and the childminder help provide the children with continuity of care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder enhances the children's care by the quality of organisation. The childminder has a professional business-like approach to her childminding and maintains her records accurately, promoting the children's welfare, and continuity of care.

Children benefit from an environment where they receive good adult support to help them feel secure and confident. The childminder uses her time well and her flexible approach allows children the opportunity to organise and pursue their own games. She updates her knowledge by attending relevant childcare courses. This commitment to improvement helps ensure she has ongoing knowledge of current childcare practices. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **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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## 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):

- extend the range of resources promoting positive images of culture, gender and disability
- devise a procedure to ensure all written records of children's development are shared with parents

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)