



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY306354
<b>Inspection date</b>	29 March 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Maxine Coulson

<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 2 children aged 9 and 3 years of age. They live in a 3 bedroom mid terrace house on a residential road on the outskirts of the centre of Banbury. Childminding takes place on the whole of the ground floor with access to the bathroom only upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden available for children's outside play. Her home is within walking distance of local shops, parks, pre-school and school.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of 5 children at any one time. She is currently caring for 4 children who attend for days and sessions.

The childminder holds a BTEC certificate in childcare, the Nursery Nursing Examinations Board (NNEB) certificate and is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children flourish in a warm, comfortable home where the standards of hygiene are good. They are learning the importance of personal hygiene through effective routines and guidance from the childminder. For example, children wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating snacks.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. The childminder offers them a wide selection of snacks in the morning and afternoon, which include options of fruit. They have access to drinks at all times to prevent them from becoming thirsty.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities, which contribute to their good health. There are regular outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies, for example, riding on wheeled toys, use of balls, and walking to and from school. Regular visits to local parks improve children's physical skills, such as climbing steps on slides or using climbing frames.

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a secure environment because the childminder identifies and minimises risks through vigilance and the use of different safety measures. For example, socket covers and stair gates. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. Children are under constant supervision when off the premises and the childminder gives children clear guidance to ensure they stay safe at all times when on outings and routine trips.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment. The childminder, through careful supervision, ensures toys and equipment are safe and appropriate for children's age and stages of development. The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare well through her sound knowledge of child protection issues. She provides a written child protection policy to share with parents to ensure they are aware of her duties as a registered childminder.

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

The provision is good.

Children relate well to the childminder and are confident and happy in their

surroundings. They are able to easily access and choose from a good range of toys, equipment and resources helping them to develop their independence. Children are beginning to develop social skills by having opportunities to play with other children of a similar age through attending local toddler and play groups.

Children have access to their own room which allows them to move around freely and take part in spontaneous play. Children clearly enjoy playing with the toys and resources that are provided. The childminder has a good understanding of child development, knows the individual children well and plans an interesting variety of activities to extend their skills. Children are learning and progressing through their play.

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

The provision is good.

Children are active, interested and enjoy a variety of different types of play, which means generally they behave well. They have discussions with the childminder to help them be aware of their actions and to begin to understand right from wrong. Children are developing a good sense of self-esteem through consistent praise and encouragement from the childminder.

They are beginning to develop their independence through making their own choices of toys and activities. They have opportunities to learn about their local community through visits to parks, farms and libraries. Children have regular access to toys and resources that help them learn about different lifestyles and promote a positive view of the wider world. The childminder has an understanding of meeting the needs of children with special educational needs, although none currently attend.

The childminder has discussions with parents and carers to ensure she meets children's individual needs and routines, helping children feel confident and secure. She gathers this information and keeps it within the children's records to help meet their needs on a daily basis. However, some records do not have all the necessary information and the childminder does not discuss with parents her procedures in the event of another person providing emergency cover. Children receive good support and appropriate care through the childminder's good practices. For example, she provides written and verbal feedback to parents on a daily basis to inform them of how their child is settling in and progressing.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home within a relaxing and homely environment that contributes to their sense of belonging. They have good adult support to help them feel confident and secure within the setting. Children have access to a good amount of space that the childminder organises well allowing them to move around easily and to be able to express their ideas during free play.

The childminder effectively uses policies and procedures. She has all the necessary documentation in place and with parental permissions promotes the welfare, care and learning of children. She provides parents with well-written information and they regularly share feedback, which contributes to continuity of the children's care. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

Not applicable.

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

There are no complaints to report since registration. 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.

## **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 all emergency procedures are discussed with parents and all necessary details completed on parental contracts.

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)