



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	148524
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 June 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Lynne Elizabeth Lewington

<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 was registered in 1997. She lives with her husband and three children in a four bedroom detached house on an estate on the outskirts Winnersh, Wokingham. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years of age at any one time. There are currently four children on roll, she also looks after older children. The childminder collects and takes children to the local schools. She attends local toddler groups.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children have opportunities to develop their physical skills through a variety of activities, these include walks in the local community, for example to post a letter, outings to the park and play in the garden. The garden has a wide selection of toys and equipment which encourage the children's abilities to balance as they kick and throw balls, and use the see saw and swings. Activities indoors provide opportunities for the children to develop their finer skills as they manoeuvre around furniture and use construction toys and small toys.

The childminder prepares food that parents have provided for their children. She is conscious of providing a good varied, healthy diet to the children in her care. Drinks are available at all times and ice lollies are made from fruit juice to encourage the children's fluid intake in hot weather. Meal times are sociable occasions where children sit around the table to enjoy their food.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through simple practical routines and reminders to wash their hands before meals and after toileting. The provision of clean towels for each child to use after hand washing helps to prevent cross infections. The childminder holds all the required paperwork to record accidents and medication and keep parents fully informed. She gathers appropriate information to ensure every child's individual needs are met.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well supervised by the childminder in the home, garden and on outings. She recognises that children need to develop their responsibilities and gradually allows them to do more for themselves, taking into account their individual abilities. For example older children may walk or ride their bikes in front of her and wait by the next lamp post for her. The childminder identifies risks and takes suitable action to minimise them enabling the children to enjoy a safe secure environment where they develop their understanding of safe behaviour.

The home environment is warm welcoming, clean and well maintained. Children are very happy secure and confident in the childminders care. They move freely around the ground floor of the property and access toys independently from the interesting range available. The good quality toys and equipment are in good condition and suitable for the age and development of the children who attend. Checking the safety of the toys and equipment regularly ensures that they remain in good repair and safe for the children's use.

The childminder has a good awareness of the signs and symptoms of child abuse. However she is not confident on the procedures that she would follow if she were concerned about a child in her care.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a good range of age appropriate toys and resources that the children can easily access. They are stored in the lounge and hallway where the children can make their selection before they play with them in the lounge. Children have access to resources including games, dolls house, farm, duplo, play dough and books, they undertake creative activities including model making with recycled materials.

The childminder interacts well with the children. She sits at the children's level, talking and listening carefully to the children encouraging them in their play. She is gentle but confident in her manner with the children enabling them to feel confident and secure.

The childminder undertakes outings with the children; these include walks in the community and visits to toddler group. These outings provide enjoyable opportunities for the children to mix with other adults and children as they develop their social skills.

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

The provision is good.

Children have regular opportunities through outings, toys and resources to discover about the world around them and that people are different, for example, on outings to toddler groups and the park. They are encouraged to be tolerant and patient with each other in their play, with the childminder acting as a good role model for them. Individual special needs are discussed thoroughly with parents to enable the childminder to develop a good understanding of the individual child's needs.

The childminder provides the children with a high level of support in their play, offering praise and encouragement for their efforts and achievements. Clear expectations and consistent boundaries ensure the children behave appropriately whilst in her care. For example, they are encouraged to share and take turns.

Positive relationships with parents are fostered well through the childminders flexible approach to her role. She will adapt her service to meet the needs of the parents if possible. She liaises with parents and exchanges information each day enabling each child to receive good quality appropriate care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She is well qualified and proactive in increasing her knowledge with regard to her work with children. The childminder makes good use of the available space within the home and demonstrates a good awareness of safety issues. Children are very happy, settled and comfortable in the environment. They have opportunities to develop their independence as they select activities from a good range of toys and resources. The effective relationships between the childminder, children and parents enable the children to feel secure in her care. The childminder maintains accurate records

and holds all the required documentation to protect the safety and welfare of the children in her care.

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

The childminder has improved her knowledge and understanding of children through attending an introduction to childminding course (ICP) and a developing childminding practice course (ICP). She has started and plans to complete an extending childminding practice course (ECP).

### **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.

### **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 knowledge of child protection procedures to promote the safety of the children.

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)