



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY297200
<b>Inspection date</b>	04 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Margaret Moffat
<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 one and three years in High Wycombe. The whole of the childminder's home is available for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and she is currently minding two children who attend on a part-time basis. The childminder attends the local toddler group and takes children to the local library and park.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment that is clean and well maintained. Through good daily routines, discussions and appropriate support the children are learning the importance of personal hygiene. The childminder has effective systems in place to gather information from parents regarding medical needs, dietary requirements and allergies. The childminder has considered the appropriate procedures to ensure children's welfare whilst in her care. For example, she holds a first aid certificate and has a sick children policy in place.

Children enjoy regular physical exercise both indoors and out. They attend drop in groups, have daily walks and visits to the park and have regular access to outdoor play in the garden. The children's own daily routines are followed, including times for rest and quiet play.

Children benefit from a healthy and well balanced diet. They enjoy a variety of nutritious snacks and meals and drinks are regularly on offer throughout the day. All meals are discussed with parents to ensure any special dietary requirements are met and the childminder provides them with sample menus. These inform parents of the types of meals and snacks their children receive and encourage healthy eating practices.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment, where the childminder has taken precautions to minimise hazards. For example, there are stair gates to prevent children accessing areas unsupervised and a knife block in the kitchen. All areas are effectively organised so children can move around freely and independently. This promotes children's safety within the home.

Children independently select from a good range of toys and activities that are safe, good quality and suitable for their ages and stages of their development. The childminder supervises and joins in children's play and encourages them to learn to keep themselves safe. They discuss road safety on outings and the childminder gives good explanations when they ask questions like 'What happens when you spill a cup of tea.'

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and understands her role in the protection of children. However, she does not have a copy of the local procedures or publication to further ensure children's welfare at all times.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy, content and relaxed in the home. They enjoy a variety of activities that are appropriate to their ages and stage of development. Children show an interest in what they do as they help themselves to the activities on offer. For example, playing with soft toy animals

and cuddling them. The childminder is warm and affectionate towards the children making them feel comfortable and valued. She develops good relationships with them and they receive good support in their play. For example, when children wake up from a sleep she allows them time to come round. Then she introduces them to activities such as wooden puzzles and shape sorters, encouraging them and praising them for their efforts. Children experience a balance of active and quiet times throughout the day. They have opportunities to socialise with a wider group of children through visits to the local toddler groups. Children's creative and imaginative development is encouraged through activities such as cooking, let's pretend and dressing up. Children enjoy playing at shops and using a piece of material as the conveyor belt, and pushing a mixture of play food, fruits and vegetables along to the till.

The childminder has a good understanding of child development and uses this to plan a varied and interesting range of activities and outings for the children. Younger children benefit from her increasing knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework, which she uses as a focus to record children's achievements, which she regularly shared with parents.

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

The provision is good.

The children access a good range of resources that promote a positive image of the world around them such as fiction and non-fiction books and small world figures. They also have opportunities to try foods from different countries as the childminder prepares these as part of her weekly menus. Children are involved in daily outings for example, visits to the local park, shops and posting letters and this develops their awareness of the local community.

Children develop an understanding of right from wrong. They respond well to the consistent praise and encouragement they receive from the childminder. She is a good role model and encourages the children to be polite. Children are well occupied during the time they spend with the childminder.

Children's individual needs are met well through the childminder discussing these thoroughly with parents. She develops friendly but professional relationships with the parents and effective communication through daily diaries and verbal feedback ensures continuity of care for the children. The childminder also informs the parents of new children, by text, that they have settled and are happy.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has high regard for children's welfare and ratios are maintained at all times. Areas of the home are well organised to maximise the play opportunities for the children. They receive good support, are confident and secure in their surroundings.

The childminder has a professional approach to her childminding and has policies and procedures in place to support the care, welfare and learning of the children. The childminder regularly updates her knowledge by attending relevant courses. This commitment to continuous improvement ensures she has ongoing knowledge of current childcare practices and improves

the service to the children and their parents. 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**

Since the last inspection 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 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):

- obtain relevant documentation for child protection procedures.

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)