

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	108262
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Christine Cutts
<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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder lives with her partner and their, three children, aged 10, 12 and 15 years. The family live in Maidenhead, Berkshire.

The children have access to all ground floor areas of the home. A bedroom upstairs is available for children to sleep. There is access to an enclosed garden. The childminder walks children to school and regularly visits toddler and childminder drop ins.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight. Currently there are 13 children on roll, the majority on part time terms. There are no children currently attending who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities, or for whom English is an additional language.

The childminder is qualified and holds a NVQ Level 3 in Childcare and Education and She is accredited to be part of the local authority childminding network.

The family have a pet dog, guinea pigs, hamster and fish.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a good range of physical activities that include the use of the garden and local parks, this contributes to their good health. The children enjoy an excellent range of toys and equipment to develop physical skills both out side in the garden and indoors with hand eye co-ordination, such as puzzles and shape sorters.

Children enjoy the homely atmosphere where the childminder provides a clean and hygienic environment to support children's health. Children have many opportunities to make their own choices and develop control over their own health and welfare.

The childminder has a good awareness of the health needs of the children and asks the children if they are thirsty, hungry or need to go to the toilet. Well-established daily routines and clear explanations increase children's understanding of the importance of washing their hands to maintain good health.

The childminder works closely with parents to provide the children with a nutritious diet, with healthy snacks. She values the wishes of parents and the children's likes and dislikes, encouraging children to develop healthy eating habits, however, children occasional eat their snacks in bowls on the floor where the dog has had access.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children have access to safe and secure environment, where they have good opportunities to enjoy playing and learning. Children access age appropriate, safe resources, which are well organised to develop their independence skills. The childminder's very good knowledge of health and safety issues and vigilant monitoring of the children ensures that they are very safe and secure in their play, moving around the home, chatting and playing well with each other.

The childminder is very aware of the need to keep children safe and is proactive in ensuring the children learn how to keep themselves safe both in the home and outside. Children learn to keep themselves safe, by practising evacuations and with the childminder talking to them about road safety.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place, safeguarding and promoting children's welfare. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a secure understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local safeguarding children board's procedures. However, the childminder has failed to keep Ofsted informed of persons living on the premises.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children play and learn in a home environment, with an excellent range of quality toys easily accessible, which support their progress in all areas of learning. Children are very well supported in their language development and they learn about, shapes, colours and numbers through fun games. The childminder uses the Birth to three matters framework and her sound knowledge

of children's development in her planning of activities to support babies and younger children. She offers a balance of activities in a flexible and child lead environment, which meets the developmental needs of all the children she cares for.

The children are learning well to become independent and gaining self-esteem through making choices in a positive environment. The children are very happy and well occupied enjoying a wide range of activities during the day, such as playing in the garden, icing biscuits, puzzles, stories and playing with Happy Street. The childminder uses tracker books to assess children's developmental progress and uses these to plan for children's next steps.

Children are confident in the childminder's home, choosing toys and activities, enjoying their own imaginary games, playing with the baby dolls, talking to Bob the Builder on the toy phones and making weddings with the Happy Street characters. There are noticeable good relationships between the children and the enthusiastic childminder, who engages the children in conversations and listens to their needs, ideas and thoughts. This means that the children feel valued and develop a sense of self-worth and belonging.

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

The provision is good.

The children are valued and respected as individuals and the childminder ensures she meets their individual needs. The children develop an understanding of others through playing together, socializing and using the very good resources available. The childminder celebrates festivals and events from the children's own and other cultures, drawing hands and making patterns on them and making candleholders for Diwali, or baking jacket potatoes for fireworks night.

The childminder is not currently minding any children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities or any children for whom English is an additional language. However, she has supported children in the past and works closely with parents and other agencies to ensure all children are fully supported.

Children's behaviour is generally good, they feel comfortable and at ease, they learn to respect and show affection for each other. The childminder works closely with parents, she ensures she exchanges information daily, keeping them informed about children's progress and activities.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home and at ease in the well-organised environment, benefiting from the childminder's good organisation. She keeps her childminding commitments balanced to ensure that there is an appropriate level of space and resources to meet all the children's needs and to ensure that she is able to offer them individual time and attention.

The childminder has undertaken all relevant checks. She continues to update her knowledge and understanding of childcare issues, with a comprehensive range of training to enable her to support the children she cares for. All relevant documentation is in place to ensure care of the children. However, some information has not been updated.

The childminder has very good relationships with parents and exchanges information to help meet the children's individual needs.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

Childminder now has information on her partner with her childminding documentation, however, failure to keep Ofsted informed of changes is still an issue at this inspection.

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

Since 1 April 2004 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 satisfactory. 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):

- inform Ofsted of any significant events including information on persons living on the premises.

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)