



Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** 110520  
**Inspection date** 12 January 2006  
**Inspector** Melissa Cox

**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** 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 has been registered since 1992. She lives with her family in the Thatcham area of Newbury. Shops, schools, a park, library and other town amenities lie within walking distance. The childminder can take children to, and collect them from, local playgroups.

Minded children use the downstairs rooms of the house, with upstairs room for sleeping purposes. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding six children.

The family pets include a Labradoodle dog, Lovebirds in an outside aviary and tanks of fish indoors.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and part of the West Berkshire Accredited Network.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy a wide range of exciting activities that contribute to their good health. The childminder ensures children have daily access to outside play. The range of activities stimulates good physical development, for example, short walks in the neighbourhood. The childminder's understanding of appropriate levels of challenge gives children confidence to acquire new skills. The children seek support when required and are supervised and encouraged to complete the task.

The children learn the importance of good hygiene through careful role-modelling and clear expectations. Young children are able to try new tasks and then are supported with the help of the childminder to complete them successfully.

Children are beginning to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They have access to frequent drinks throughout the day. The childminder involves parents and children when planning menus and providing meals and snacks. Meals are nutritious, appealing and age appropriate.

Babies and young children settle remarkably quickly. They receive huge amounts of attention, and are cuddled and talked to constantly to help them feel welcome and emotionally secure. Children follow their own routine for eating and sleeping to improve their comfort and good practice provides children with security and familiarity.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children play in a homely and cheerful environment where they safely access resources on their own. The childminder displays children's craftwork for others to see, and this makes children feel valued and secure. Children play with a vast range of very suitable toys, which the childminder rotates regularly to develop new interests and skills.

The childminder conscientiously preserves children's wellbeing by continuously monitoring safety issues in and around the home, and by supervising children closely. Children learn house rules and good practice to avoid accidental injury and they develop a caring nature through copying the childminder.

The children's safety is a high priority. They are cared for in a home where there are

good procedures in place to identify risks and minimise them. The childminder is a consistent role-model and supports the children in their daily routines. They learn from an early age about expectations on how to keep safe, and are closely supervised by the childminder at all times. The childminder has excellent procedures in place for outings and emergencies.

The children are well protected by the detailed set of information the childminder keeps and her professional attitude. She attends regular training to update her knowledge and is aware of the procedures to follow should a concern arise.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder knows the children extremely well and is warm and attentive to their individual needs. Close caring relationships are successful in settling children and contribute to their high levels of confidence and self-esteem. Children are eager and enthusiastic in all they do, enjoying the time they spend in the setting. Children are well supported and given achievable opportunities to try new skills. The childminder's excellent knowledge of child development ensures children are suitably challenged.

The childminder interacts with the children, offering frequent praise and a genuine interest. The childminder uses highly effective questioning to promote the children's interest and children demonstrate very good levels of concentration. The children in her care are confident, articulate and enjoy the company of adults. They talk freely and have high levels of self-esteem.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder provides an excellent range of activities and meaningful resources to promote a positive view of the wider world. Children are highly valued and respected. Their individual needs are well met as they enjoy many opportunities to explore and play in the child orientated environment. She ensures children understand behaviour and house expectations through consistent boundaries, praise and age appropriate methods, including setting a good example.

The childminder ensures the children have a range of achievable challenges that build their confidence and self-esteem. She has excellent systems in place to support children with special needs. The children in her care feel relaxed and secure, able to make independent choices about what they wish to do.

Children benefit from a very strong partnership between the childminder and the parents. They exchange information regularly using a variety of methods that parents can use later as a point of reference. Daily written diaries ensure parents understand the events of the day and can revisit if a query should arise. Regular meetings give the parents a relaxed opportunity to discuss developmental records and promotes a sense of belonging.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The children's needs are met by exemplary documentation and thoroughly effective organisation of the setting. The childminder prepares the space and equipment so children can access resources easily and independently. They have an exciting range of weekly activities that support their development and give them opportunities to flourish. The children benefit from routines which make them feel secure and relaxed, enjoying the time spent at the childminder's.

Documentation is stored securely and information shared appropriately with parents, although the childminder has not fully implemented a complaints log. All of the required policies and procedures are in place, to keep the children healthy and safeguard their welfare. Children thrive from the childminders knowledge and experience. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Following the last inspection, the childminder was to ensure the daily attendance register reflects any changes to children's hours. This has been successfully implemented.

## **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):

- ensure that you have documentation in place to record any complaints you may receive

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)