



## Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 219807                |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 17 November 2005      |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Ann Elizabeth Shelley |

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| <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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Registered as a childminder in 1990. She lives with her husband and one of her three grown up children. The property is situated on the western side of Dunstable. Some local shops, pre-schools, nursery and Lower school are within walking distance, as is the park. The childminder has a people carrier car which is used to transport children to school and outings away from the home.

Regular trips out are organised including parent and toddler groups, zoo and farm. There are no household pets. The childminder has undertaken additional child care training which including behavioural problems, Makaton signing and caring for children with special needs. There are no household pets.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a warm, caring and well-organised environment. Children have ample space to move around, encouraging them to explore and develop increasing skill and knowledge of their own abilities. Frequent outings to parks, zoo and indoor playgrounds encourage children to flourish, explore and effectively develop their physical skills in secure and diverse surroundings. Children's health is further enhanced because the childminder has introduced a rigid cleaning routine for toys, equipment and household. She has also introduced a sickness policy effectively eliminating the risk of cross infection. Children are beginning to learn about the importance of personal hygiene. They are reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet, nappy changes, touching animals and prior to eating.

Children are discouraged from approaching animals who are unknown to them, unless the owner is present and gives permission, helping to develop an understanding of risk taking with confidence. Children's well-being is fully ensured because the childminder is aware of any special individual requirements. These are accurately documented and met effectively. Children's well-being is further ensured because the childminder keeps her first aid qualifications up-to-date. Accidents are accurately recorded in the accident book which is signed by parents, when they have been informed about an accident.

Children are becoming aware of their own needs and recognising for themselves when they need to drink, each child is provided with their own cups which they can easily identify, and are able to help themselves when they want. Children are nourished because the childminder provides a healthy diet consisting of fresh fruit and vegetables, the diet is varied and in line with any specific dietary requirements of the individual child on request of the parents.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment where play resources and toys are easily accessible to the children, allowing children choice and independence. Children have the free use of an extended lounge and dining room and hall as play areas, and have access to a downstairs cloakroom. Children's safety is meticulously promoted as a childminder carries out regular risk assessment, identifying hazards and taking the successful steps to remove or minimise risks. Ensuring that children are able to move around safely and independently. Children are learning to take personal responsibility to keep themselves and others safe by being made aware of potential hazards by the childminder. Children are able to enjoy a wide range of physical activities which enable children to thrive and develop their physical skills.

Children are effectively protected because the childminder is fully aware of child protection procedures. Callers to the house are asked for identification which is checked carefully by the child minder. Children are further protected when outside the home, by the dedicated actions of the childminder explaining to children about strangers and animals. Children play safely with a comprehensive range of toys and play materials, which are purchased, or invented imaginatively

by the childminder and children working enthusiastically together. All toys are checked regularly to ensure there is no damage which could harm a child.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children can choose from a wide and comprehensive range of art materials such as paint, glue, clay and play dough which are provided to use in craft projects that they wish to undertake. Rambles and outings in the community are used to collect natural materials such as leaves, cones, conkers and wildflowers to use in collage. These opportunities are used to discuss and talk about what they have seen. Children are taken to places of interest, they participate in choosing which place to visit such as zoo, parks, and local farm.

Children have the opportunity to grow their own seeds, examples include cucumbers, tomatoes, corn on the cob, and a range of flowers, nurture the resultant plant, and to eat the results which they enjoy in addition to the learning about caring for the environment. Children are helped to understand the wider world by the celebration of festivals throughout the year, they are encouraged to help the preparation of these festivals. Children learn to make cakes and bread, weighing out ingredients and mixing prior to cooking. Children have been taken to see a windmill, it was explained that the flour they used in cake making was ground from the corn by the big stones. They have been taken to local farms, they picked to their own eggs and learning where they came from.

Children help extensively with the preparation of meals such as peeling vegetables and whisking desserts, they are encouraged to prepare the table, using the opportunity to count and to match. Older children willingly help the younger children to handle utensils unfamiliar to them. Children help enthusiastically. To allow the children to participate fully, the childminder is adaptable and dedicated.

Children have informal and frequent opportunities for counting, discussing colour, sorting and sizing in line with the ' Birth to three matters' framework which is being effectively used, within the house, garden, when out walking and visiting places of interest. The childminder is successful in helping the children to learn, increasing their knowledge and understanding of the world, and develop their physical skills. Children are encouraged to think, explore ideas, use their imagination and to be creative. Children are given the opportunity to invent their own toys and play equipment, when presented with a large cardboard box it became a house, a boat and then a kennel, the box remained a firm favourite toy, remaining in the lounge for several months before falling a part.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are provided with a wide, varied and extensive range of activities and play opportunities which promote a positive view of the wider world and increases their knowledge of diversity by the celebration of different festivals through out the year. Children show consistent care and concern for each other, their behaviour is good. They have helped to devise purposeful

house rules which keep them safe and unharmed, they understand the reason for these. The childminder has undertaken additional training to care for children with additional needs, she is able to communicate using sign language, when the need arises.

They play well together and younger children beginning to understand sharing and taking turns. Older children include younger ones in their play, helping them to understand the rules of both games and the house. Children are treated as individuals, the childminder ensures that she is aware of, and is able to systematically meet any particular needs. Children are enabled to participate in activities, the childminder adapts these to suit the individual stages of the children's development. Children's individual needs are met because of the childminder's professional attitude to her work, keeping parents consistently informed about the children achievements and activities. Children are fully included, confident and settled because of the manner in which the childminder and parents work cohesively together. A complaints log, and home a link book have been introduced in addition to all the required documentation, ensuring misunderstandings between parents and childminder does not mar the professional and successful relationships established.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The individual needs of the children are systematically met in full, children are relaxed, confident and happy. The childminder understands their individual needs and plans a range of purposeful activities accordingly. Children are consistently protected and cared for by the childminder who has a good knowledge and understanding of child development, safety and child protection. Children are confident and self-motivated and can initiate their own play. The childminder ensures she has all the necessary personal information about the children. All adult in the household have been cleared for contact with children. Children are able to develop their skills, knowledge, understanding and confidence in a safe and secure surroundings because the childminder takes full advantage of training which is offered to childminders locally, and ensures that adults are checked before allowing any contact with the children.

Children's thrive and their welfare is safeguarded because the childminder uses the additional knowledge of children gained during training consistently. She is motivated and is committed to childminding, she has undertaken additional training in child protection training, special needs and the foundation years as well as first aid. Visitors are asked for identification which checked before being admitted into the property.

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

Children's safety is ensured because the childminder has a current first aid qualification, and is using her medication and accident books appropriately, in addition medical records are kept up-to-date and confidential.

Children are no longer at risk because the childminder allows additional time to take the youngest children out of the vehicle and into the playground when collecting and delivering school age children at school.

### **Complaints 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 by Ofsted.

Ofsted has received one complaint relating to Standard 6 : Safety. We investigated this concern by carrying out an unannounced visit on 11/01/2005. Three non regulatory actions were imposed under Standard 6 which were complied with by the childminder on 12/01/2005.

The childminder remains qualified for registration.

### **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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)