



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY317203
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 April 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Nicola Hill

<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 has been registered since 2005. She lives with her husband and their child aged 14 months. They live in a detached house in Frimley Green. The property is close to local schools and amenities and there is a park nearby. The ground floor of the house is mainly used for childminding, with toilet facilities available on this floor and provision for children to sleep available on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and attends the local carer and toddler group. She holds a valid first aid qualification. She is

registered to care for a maximum of 5 children at any one time and is currently minding 2 children aged 17 months and 3 years, who both attend on a part-time basis. She is not registered to provide overnight care.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

The childminder plans an exciting range of physical play experiences for children. They have good opportunities to be outside in the fresh air through walks and regular visits to local parks. This enables the children to develop a positive attitude towards exercise and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Visits to local play centres and garden activities such as riding on wheeled toys and bouncing on the mini trampoline, improves children's physical skills and helps them to develop control of their bodies. Children are able to rest and be active according to their needs. The childminder includes time within the day for quieter activities, for example, sitting together and sharing stories, which provides children with periods of rest and relaxation.

Nutritious food provided by the childminder promotes good health. The childminder discusses and records individual parental wishes and children's dietary needs to ensure she meets the needs of the individual children. Children are beginning to develop an understanding of a healthy diet by helping to prepare meals and by being able to help themselves to drinks throughout the day. The children's personal likes and dislikes are also taken into account so that they remain healthy and enjoy their food. They enjoy fruit and vegetables that the childminder incorporates into snacks, and freshly cooked hot dinners. Good social interaction is fostered as the children sit at the table and eat together.

Children's health is promoted by suitable procedures when they are unwell and daily routines to ensure the premises and resources are clean and well maintained. Children are developing an understanding of the importance of good hygiene and personal care. For example, the childminder gives consistent guidance as they are reminded to wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a spacious environment where potential risks are identified and minimised so that they remain safe and feel confident. Children feel very much part of the family, they have the freedom to move around safely which encourages independence and self help skills. Good security precautions also contribute to child safety. The front door remains locked at all times and children are only released to authorised known carers. Children are learning about the importance of staying safe as the childminder plans themed activities, so that they can learn about stranger danger and road safety. However, children do not have complete awareness of how to keep themselves safe if there was a fire as the childminder has not yet practised

emergency evacuation procedures with them.

The childminder takes great care to provide a warm and welcoming home for the children. Pictures and posters created by the children are displayed in the playroom, which creates a stimulating backdrop for play. Children are able to access a very good range of safe, good quality and developmentally appropriate toys and resources. Toys are easily and independently accessible to the children allowing self-selection. The children are independent and are confident to select the toys and resources they wish to use or request further equipment from shelves they cannot reach. The childminder regularly checks the toys to ensure they are clean and in a good condition.

Children are well protected as the childminder maintains constant supervision both inside and outside the home. The childminder has suitable procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted, for example she records accidents and medication and has written procedures in place for lost and uncollected children. Her knowledge of child protection issues is good and she understands the procedures to follow should she have any concerns.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely well nurtured and secure in their relationship with the childminder. The childminder finds out about children's needs and interests before they attend. This helps them to settle well and benefit from care that is consistent with their home routines. The children are comfortable and happy within the home. The childminder is kind and caring and her calm manner helps children to feel confident and at ease. The children receive plenty of praise and encouragement, which also increases their sense of well-being and encourages them to be increasingly independent and self-assured.

Children thrive in the exciting range of activities and experiences offered to them. They take part in an excellent range of outings which extends their learning and development. Children benefit from walks and regular outings to the park. They visit other amenities such as Frimley Lodge and the local library for story time, which promotes their learning and stimulates their interest in the wider world. They have opportunities to mix with other children through toddler groups and visits to soft play centres, which develops their ability to relate to a wider group of adults and peers.

Children are provided with an excellent range of opportunities such as role play, music and singing, cooking, art and craft, outdoor play and a variety of planned activities, which are based around themes throughout the year such as the weather, Easter and people who help us. The childminder has resourced the Birth to Three Framework and has started to incorporate this into her practice to further support the young children in her care. Toys and resources are highly stimulating, interesting and suitable to the children's age and stage of development. The children spend their time purposefully and are eager to participate. They have lots of fun playing with dinosaurs in shredded paper and improvise with a variety of cardboard boxes and tubes. The children make excellent progress as the childminder has a very positive

and enthusiastic approach to childcare and to the children's overall development. Their early communication skills are extremely well supported through high quality adult-child interactions and the childminder's use of finger phonics. Young children have great opportunities to make choices of objects to investigate and they explore these with interest. They are beginning to make sense of the world and express their ideas as they join in a diverse range of exploratory and sensory experiences. For example, planting seeds, painting eggs and exploring textures such as ice cubes, cooked pasta and shaving foam.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their needs are being met as the childminder follows their daily routines and informs parents about their care and development through daily diaries. Relationships with parents are friendly and open and their wishes are acknowledged and adhered to. The childminder has developed some well written policies and procedures for parents to inform them of the main aspects of her business. However, the childminder has not yet developed a written complaints procedure for parents to view, and does not yet have a system in place to record complaints if they arise.

Children's achievements are recognised and praised which builds their confidence and self-esteem. The childminder praises the children in their artwork and their efforts are displayed around the home. The childminder has realistic expectations and acts as a good role model, which encourages children to behave well. They begin to understand right and wrong through consistent boundaries and the age appropriate methods the childminder uses to manage behaviour. Children's understanding of right and wrong increases as they respond to gentle reminders to care for their environment, such as helping to tidy their toys away. The children are well behaved.

The childminder demonstrates a good awareness of equal opportunities and special needs issues. She provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase the children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. Children make musical instruments and dance to music from different countries. They learn about their local community and the wider world and value and celebrate their differences and similarities. Children celebrate festivals such as Chinese New Year and Hanukkah and have access to a range of play resources within the home such as play figures, dolls, books and puzzles, which show positive images of culture, ethnicity and disability.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease with the well organised environment. The areas used for play are safe and welcoming and organised well which allows children to feel completely at home and ensures there are good opportunities to extend learning and initiate play. Good adult interaction enables the children to be confident

and self-assured and they benefit from the sharing of information between the childminder and parents. The day is organised to give children the opportunity to experience a range of both indoor and outdoor activities, and they have regular opportunities to relax as well as be active within the daily routine.

The childminder has a very positive attitude towards training and her on-going development. She is continually undertaking courses to enhance her knowledge and understanding in childcare. Children receive good levels of care and are well supported because the childminder organises her time effectively around their needs and maintains required adult-to-child ratios at all times. The childminder has all the required records in place which enables her to meet the children's needs. All documentation is stored appropriately and well maintained in order to safeguard the children's welfare and care. Overall, 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**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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):

- further develop existing good practice with regards to safety procedures, by conducting regular emergency evacuation practices to increase children's awareness about the importance of keeping safe
- further develop written policies and procedures for parents to include details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint, and ensure a system

is in place to record future complaints if they arise

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