



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	403842
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Patricia Ann Edward
<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 was registered since in 2001. She lives with her husband, mother-in-law and two non-dependent children in the London Borough of Merton. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and the first floor play room and bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding six children under eight. Most of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder collects children from local schools and attends local parent and toddler groups.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and holds a level three National Childminding Association Quality First Certificate.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children have access to the garden and make regular visits to places further a field such as farms, Lego land and Kew Garden's. This enables them to enjoy physical activities, exercise and obtain fresh air. Children are beginning to understand the benefits of a healthy diet and they are encouraged to try healthy choices and enjoy healthy meals and snacks. The childminder has devised a two week food table, which details meals and snacks provided such as: chapattis, spinach and potatoes, raisins, yogurts and fruit. She also encourages children to drink fluids throughout the day. This contributes to children learning about a healthy lifestyle.

Children's understanding of hygiene is effectively encouraged by the childminder maintaining a good standard of hygiene within the home. She ensures surfaces and utensils are kept clean and bedding is cleaned on a regular basis.

Children's health is generally well safeguarded because the childminder has attended the relevant first aid training. However the first aid box contents is not complete. This could lead to children not obtaining the appropriate first aid in the event of an accident. Children are safeguarded well by the childminder's knowledge and understanding of health issues. The childminder keeps accurate records on children's health needs and information is effectively shared with parents.

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

The provision is good.

Children are able to move freely and safely around the childminder's home because she has taken effective steps to minimise any potential hazards. For instance hazardous materials and sharp objects are inaccessible. This reduces the risk of accidental injury. Children are beginning to learn how to keep themselves safe when on outings because the childminder talks to them about road safety. Children are generally well protected from the risk of being exposed to fire because precautions, such as a written evacuation procedure has been devised, fire blanket and smoke detectors, are in place. However children have not taken part in a fire evacuation practice, this means they may not know what to do in the event of a fire.

Children have access to a excellent variety of toys and play materials that are kept clean, are in good condition, and are suitable for their age and stage of development. This allows children to play safely without risk. Their welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has an exceptional understanding of child protection issues and knows what to do if she is worried about a child's welfare in her care.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are confident and settled, they make themselves at home in the stimulating environment. They relate very well to the childminder because she has a gentle approach and plays at their level.

Children's language development is effectively developed by the childminder who is particularly skilled at encouraging language. She stimulates language through activities such as stories, role-play and constant communication. She questions them to make them think, which stimulates children's learning. At story time children enjoy listening and respond well to the childminder's questioning.

Children's independence is encouraged; for example, through accessible resources stored at child level and also by them helping to tidy up. They are happy and secure with high levels of self-esteem and confidence as a result of the childminder's praise and support.

The childminder's excellent understanding of child development helps contribute to the quality of activities and teaching that she provides to children. She gives children's learning priority every day. This ensures they make very good progress in all areas of learning and development. The childminder inspires the children's play by supporting and guiding them, being enthusiastic and knowing them well enough to know what interests them. Children take part in a number of activities that contribute to their enjoyment and learning such as imaginary and construction play resources, puzzles and art and craft activities. Children benefit from a range of different outdoor play activities.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children relate well to the childminder's because of her calm and gentle nature. She has a consistent approach to managing behaviour and has realistic age appropriate expectations of children. Her skilful use of praise and encouragement builds children's self-esteem and enables them to learn about acceptable behaviour. The childminder is proactive in teaching children about diversity and provides them with an excellent range of play resources with positive images of race, culture and disability to develop positive attitudes. Children also celebrate a range of festivals throughout the year.

Children's individual needs are met very well by the childminder, who works closely with parents to ensure continuity of care is provided. The childminder discusses constructive information with parents at the first meeting and implements a gradual settling in process that meets the individual child's needs. This ensures that they settle well and are relaxed in the childminder's care in their parent's absence.

Children with special needs are welcomed; however the childminder has no experience of caring for children with special needs. She has expressed an interest in completing training. She has a very good understanding of 'partnership with parents' and builds relationships with parents that are both friendly and professional. This helps ensure children are settled and secure.

Parents are given both written and verbal information about the childminder and the service she offers. She has compiled a comprehensive portfolio, which displays detailed policies and procedures which enables parents to have a clear view of the provision provided. Parents are given copy of policy booklet, which contains a range of policies such as equal opportunities, child protection, confidentiality and settling in policies and procedures.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The care and well being of children is effectively supported because the childminder is proactive in attending regular training. This enables her to keep herself abreast of childcare legislation and care. The childminder holds a level three National Childminding Association Quality First Certificate. She maintains all of the required records effectively, which, contributes to the health, safety and welfare of the children. The childminder has also devised a multitude of effective policies and procedures, which provides parents with detailed information about the setting. All records are maintained in a confidential manor.

The home is well organised to meet children's needs. For example, after tea younger children are taken up to the play room to watch TV and or play, while older children use the through lounge to complete school homework. This allows older children to concentrate on work in a quite environment with out distraction.

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

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

At the last inspection a number of action's and a recommendations were raised around safety documentation and child protection. The childminder has obtained and updated her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, in line with the booklet 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'. Children's safety has further been enhanced by the childminder's ensuring all household members over the age of 16 submit to an appropriate vetting procedure. She has also made the main bedrooms that are not used for childminding inaccessible and ensures all parents are given Ofsted details.

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

Since the last inspection Ofsted has received one complaint.

The complaint related to National Standard 13: child protection. The complaint related to the childminder not being clear of who to contact with child protection concerns. We wrote to the provider requesting further details and from the reply received we are satisfied that there is no evidence that the National Standards are not being maintained, therefore the provider 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 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 first aid box contents is complete and up to date.

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)