



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY332170
<b>Inspection date</b>	11 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	John Edwin Warren

<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 lives with her two children aged 11 and nine. She cares for the children from her home located in the Morden area in the London Borough of Merton. The premises is within walking distance to local park, shops and bus links. All areas of the home are used for childminding. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and collects from local schools. There are currently two children on roll.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from daily exercise, short trips to the local park or soft play centres. Children are provided with a physical challenge that is suitable for their age and stage of development. Daily outings ensure children experience the variety of elements. The childminder takes

precautions to ensure they are protected from all weather conditions, for example, she applies sun cream to them on hot days. Children's physical well-being is met by a childminder who recognises their signs of tiredness. Children are set good role models by the childminder. She follows good hygiene practices that also prevent cross-infection, for example, the washing of her hands after changing nappies. Children are given assistance when washing their hands to ensure they are properly clean.

Children are protected from infection by the implementation of a sickness policy. Children are excluded for a set period if they become infectious. There is careful recording of all medication given, to ensure that the children are always given the correct dosage. Any accidents that occur are well recorded and a risk assessment made to minimise the risk of a reoccurrence.

Children are provided with a healthy diet because of a close working partnership between parents and childminder. They are provided with healthy choices at mealtimes and develop their independence through the support and praise of the childminder. Children take drinks according to their needs because they are provided with suitable drinking beakers and are reminded by the childminder.

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

The provision is good.

Children play freely in a child orientated home. They confidently choose their own play and learning experiences from easily accessible toys and equipment. Children remain safe as they play because the childminder checks all play resources for safety on a regular basis. Child-size furniture is provided that helps to develop the children's independence, for example, a booster seat allows younger children to sit together with the childminder at mealtimes. Children are being kept safe by a childminder who has adjusted her environment accordingly to meet the needs of all children, for example, young children who are just learning to walk are protected by corner protectors on the table. The childminder also points out the dangers to the children by reminding them of the house rules, for example, not to run or they may hurt themselves. Dangerous substances are out of children's reach or locked away in a child proof cupboard. Children are unable to leave the home without supervision because of the good positioning of safety gates. Children practise fire evacuation procedures with the childminder, however there is no written evidence of when they were carried out.

Children are protected from harm by a childminder who has a sound knowledge of the child protection procedures. She also has easy access to the local authority guidelines to refer to.

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

The provision is good.

Children are provided with good access to creative play materials and are given the opportunity to make creations unique to them. They enjoy playing imaginatively with small world play materials, for example, the childminder plays with the child at her level and the child mimics the childminder's actions with the people. Children are starting to make connections and are aware that different shapes are used with the sorting boxes. They receive good support from

the childminder in achieving their goal of fitting the shapes in the box. Children have easy access to books and can choose them to sit and look at alone or share with the childminder. The children are learning to find their voice with the support of the childminder, for example, she responds to their babbles and actions showing the children that she understands their attempts to communicate. She talks to the children as they are playing, linking their actions to words and sentences. Children are encouraged to join in conversations with the childminder who shows them photos of familiar objects and people and learn their names. Children are provided with play and learning opportunities beyond the home, for example, they take regular trips to the city farm and learn the animals names and how they are cared for.

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

The provision is good.

Children are given equality of access to all toys and equipment regardless of gender. Children have access to some equipment that shows them positive images of ethnicity, for example, small world play figures. However, there is an insufficient amount in this area and disability and culture. The childminder has experience in caring for children with special needs and has a willingness to work in partnership with parents and other professionals to meet these needs. Children are offered positive praise for good behaviour. There is also a clear policy on behaviour management which is shared with all parents. It clearly outlines how the childminder deals with unacceptable behaviour according to the individual child. The childminder values the partnership with parents. They are given a good amount of information about the provision and how it is run. They are also given individual feedback on a daily basis with regards to their child's general well-being. There are written contracts in place outlining the business and childcare arrangements between the childminder and parent.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by efficient and effective organisation. Comprehensive policies developed by the childminder ensure children are protected, their well-being is promoted and they receive the support that will help them to develop their full potential. Permission is sought for a variety of reasons, for example, before transporting the children in a car.

Children benefit from the support of a childminder who is committed to attending training courses to further enhance the good standard of care being offered. The children's daily routine is organised well so that they receive support and close supervision for the majority of the day. For example, toys and equipment are available for the children to access from the moment they enter the home and any domestic duties are completed before the children arrive. Parents are made aware of how they can raise a concern if they wish to complain.

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**

Since registration 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 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 children have access to a wide range of resources that promote positive images of culture, ethnicity, disability and gender.
- ensure that relevant records relating to fire drills are maintained and evaluated.

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)