



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY283458
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 October 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Patricia Jane Daniels
<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 2004. She lives with her husband and two school-aged children in Weybridge.

The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. Bedrooms are available on the first floor for sleeping children, if required.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding three, all of whom attend on a part time basis.

The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group and takes children to the local park.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean home and learn about good hygiene through the routines encouraged by the childminder. For example, children wash their hands before eating and learn to cover their mouths when they cough. Each child is provided with an individual towel and bedding, to minimise the potential for cross contamination. The childminder excludes sick children in line with advice from the NHS, so that they do not present a source of infection to others. She has written parental consent to administer medication, to ensure that children receive treatment according to parents' wishes. However, she does not have written consent to seek emergency treatment for all children. The children have access to appropriate care if they have an accident because the childminder holds a current certificate in first aid.

The childminder provides food for children and offers a nutritious menu that encourages healthy eating from an early age. All meals are home cooked and the menu is varied, so that children try a range of foods and adopt a positive attitude towards eating. Drinks are freely available for children to help themselves, which ensures they do not become thirsty.

Children visit the local park, where they play on the equipment and practise their developing physical skills. They have daily opportunities to play outdoors and benefit from being the fresh air.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has undertaken a risk assessment and minimised the identified potential hazards to children. She has stair gates in place to prevent children climbing the stairs and does not use the loft extension area for childminding. She has smoke alarms in place on all levels of the house. Cupboard locks are fitted to the furniture in the lounge and socket covers are in place to protect children. Toys are carefully selected to be suitable for the ages of children minded, and small items are kept out of the reach of the youngest children. The childminder tidies away toys as they are used, to keep the floor clutter free so that the youngest children do not trip. The rear garden is securely fenced all around, but although the rear gate closes very firmly, it does not have a padlock to ensure that it cannot be opened.

The childminder understands her responsibilities in safeguarding children. She has attended training to update her knowledge. She shares her policy with parents in her portfolio. She keeps guidance notes and information incase of need. These actions promote the welfare of the children in her care.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder builds close relationships with the children in her care. They approach her freely for cuddles and support with play, indicating that trusting relationships have developed.

These close relationships help the young children to feel secure as their emotions develop. The children are settled and confident.

The childminder plans her day in advance and offers a variety of activities that include outings to the local toddler group. The opportunity to mix with others develops the children's social skills. The daily routine depends on the children's moods and needs. For example, if a child has not slept well the night before the childminder offers a quieter, more restful day.

The childminder spends her time supporting the children's play and learning. She talks about the animals in the puzzle, makes noises to represent the animals and asks children questions like "where does it go", and "what is this". She counts out objects to help child become familiar with numbers. Children are offered alternative activities before they become bored, so that they remain interested in their play. They concentrate on the activities, investigate the toys and enjoy their play. They learn to take turns and share. For example, when building a tower of bricks the childminder encourages them to build together.

The childminder chats to young children tells them what will happen next. She responds to their early attempts at words, repeating them back and putting them into context. This helps young children develop the skills needed for communication.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder is a positive role model for the children. She treats them with respect and encourages them to consider each other during their play. She praises children's achievements, redirects unwanted behaviour and sets appropriate boundaries, so that children learn what is expected of them.

The childminder finds out about children's individual needs initially from parents and makes time for daily conversation to exchange information. Initial taster sessions are offered, when the parent and child attend for short sessions. This helps children to feel relaxed and gain confidence in the childminder's care. The childminder provides a comprehensive portfolio for parents, linking the care she provides to the outcomes for children. She seeks parents' views via a feedback form, so that she is aware of their opinions of her practice. These measures foster a positive relationship with parents, and the children benefit from continuity of care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

All required checks on household members are in place, ensuring that adults are suitable to be in contact with children. The childminder attends a variety of training workshops, to keep up to date with current childcare practice. She organises her home well so that children can move around freely and safely. She has produced a comprehensive set of policies and procedures that underpin her practice.

Regulatory requirements are met and documentation relating to the health, safety and welfare of children is in place and well maintained.

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

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

At the previous inspection, Ofsted requested that the provider should develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and make Ofsted's telephone number available to parents. The childminder has improved her understanding of possible signs of abuse and the steps to take if concerned, so that children are safeguarded. She displays a poster for parents that details Ofsted's helpline number, so that parents can make contact if they wish. Because of following the recommendations, the outcomes for children are improved.

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

Since the last inspection 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):

- improve safety by providing a padlock for the rear gate.

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)