



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	139639
<b>Inspection date</b>	08 January 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Lindsay Ann Farenden

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

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1992. She lives with her husband and one adult child in the London borough of Sutton. The whole the house is used for childminding and 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 one child under five on part time basis and three children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family have four pet cats.

The childminder attends toddler groups and takes children to parks.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are nurtured in a clean and warm home. They learn to follow good daily hygiene procedures, as the childminder reminds them to wash their hands before snacks, after playing in the garden and when they have used the toilet. Children learn the reason for hand washing, as the childminder explains to them this prevents them from getting ill. To reduce the risk of cross infection the childminder carries out good hygiene practices. For example, she washes her hands after changing nappies and makes sure all surfaces in the kitchen are clean.

Children's health is protected because the childminder stores foods provided by parents appropriately. Children are offered a biscuit at snack times and fruit is always available to them. The childminder works closely with the parents to ensure any dietary needs are met. Children are provided with plenty of drinks to ensure they do not get dehydrated or thirsty. Younger children have drinks accessible to them at their level at all times. The childminder sets out cups and a variety of high juice squashes in the kitchen, which older children can help themselves to at any time. This helps children to learn about meeting their bodily needs.

To protect children's health and welfare the first aid box is very well stocked and the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. This means she is able to give appropriate care if they have an accident. Some children are protected in the event of a serious accident, because the childminder has obtained written parental permission for emergency treatment if needed, but this has not been obtained for all children.

Children have good opportunities to develop their physical skills, as they do running races in the garden, and visit parks where they are able to use swings and play on large equipment. Children receive plenty of fresh air and exercise as they walk to and from school with the childminder.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to move around the childminder's home safely because the childminder minimises risks to children, for example, by making sure all cleaning materials are inaccessible to children. They are well supervised by the childminder because of the organisation of the rooms and because she stays with the children all of the time whilst they are present.

Children are safeguarded by all the fire equipment appropriately fitted and the smoke alarms are in working order. Although no written fire evacuation plan has been devised the children have practised fire drills with the childminder. This helps them to learn to leave the premises quickly and safely.

Children's welfare is generally safeguarded because the childminder has an understanding of child protection concerns and has attended training in this area in the past. However, she does not have the local authority's child protection guidelines or contact numbers.

Children are protected effectively outside of the home because the childminder makes sure children have appropriate car seats, when travelling in the car. When walking, younger children hold onto the buggy and the childminder explains to older children, that when walking in front of her, she must be able to see them at all times. She helps children to learn about road safety, by talking them about looking both ways before crossing the road.

Children play with a good range of clean play resources which are appropriate for their age and stage of development. They are rotated during the day, so children play with a variety of toys throughout the day. Older children make choices of what they would like to play with, from resources stored in cupboards that are easily accessible to them.

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

The provision is good.

The children are very relaxed and confident in the childminder's home, as they play with the toys set out for them. They benefit from the positive interaction of the childminder, who spends time playing with them and shows children lots of warmth and affection. This makes them feel safe and secure within the environment.

The childminder helps children to learn through play. For example, as children play with animals, she talks to them about what they are and the sounds that they make. The childminder helps children learn about the seasons, as she talks about the changes in the weather, as they go for walks. Older children enjoy playing board games and are able to do their homework if they want to. They enjoy activities, which develop their creativity, such as baking bread and making Christmas crackers.

Children's interests are developed through a range of stimulating and pleasurable outings, for example, to the cinema, bowling, farms where they can see and hold real animals and visits to various ball pool activity centres. Younger children regularly attend toddler group with the childminder, where there are different activities for them to play with and join in with singing and music sessions.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and their individual needs are met as the childminder undertakes discussions with the parents to find out about any comforters children may have, their likes, dislikes and routines. She has a very friendly relationship with the parents and works closely with them, which ensures children experience consistent care. Parents are kept informed of their child's day because the childminder exchanges information with them on a daily basis. She provides a daily diary for parents of younger children, which provides a record of their time at the childminder's.

Children learn about the local community as they visit local parks and amenities for children. Children are beginning to learn about diversity through a range of lovely books and some play resources reflecting positive images of culture, ability and gender.

The childminder uses appropriate strategies to manage children's behaviour, such as explaining to them why they must not do certain things and distraction with younger children. She provides a good role model for children, as she speaks to them in a kind and friendly manner.

There are no children with learning difficulties/disabilities currently being cared for by the childminder. The childminder said if she cared for a child with special needs, she would reduce the number of children she cared for in order to give them extra attention.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder organising her day well, so she gives her full attention to the children, whilst they are present. She plans their week allowing time for children to socialise, go on outings, play with resources within her home, and have time to rest and sleep.

The childminder's registration certificate is displayed for the parents to view. Regulatory documentation is in place, although some needs to contain further details. The childminder has attended several training courses in order to enhance the care and welfare of the children she looks after. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection recommendations were made. Since the last inspection the childminder has increased her resources reflecting positive images of diversity and provides written information to parents on activities offered to their children.

### **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 satisfactory. 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's attendance record includes times of children's arrival and departure
- make sure that written parental permission is requested at the time of placement, to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment for all children
- obtain the local authority's child protection procedures for childminders and ensure they are easily accessible at all times
- ensure parents confirm in writing that at agreed times, assistants may be left in sole charge of children

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)