



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY341373
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 March 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Christine Stimson
<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 in September 2006. She lives with her husband and three children aged five, seven and 10 years in a house situated in Thames Ditton, Surrey. The whole of the house is used for childminding, but children mainly play in the ground floor areas. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one child on a part time basis. The childminder drives to local nurseries and schools to take and collect children. She takes children to the local parent toddler group, library and park. The family has two pet cats and a hamster.

The childminder is a member of the national childminding association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health and welfare are supported by the childminder as she makes sure they play in a clean, well maintained and organised environment. Children learn the importance of good hygiene practice through daily routines of washing hands prior to eating and after messy play. They are provided with their own towels which helps prevent cross infection.

The childminder has gained a first aid qualification and this, together with a well stocked first aid box and prior consent to take children to hospital in an emergency, ensures children's health is supported. Accident records are kept by the childminder who makes sure parents are informed on the day by sharing this record with them. This supports children's well being.

Children's health is supported as they enjoy home cooked meals whilst being cared for; beakers of water or weak apple juice are provided frequently to ensure they do not become thirsty.

Children enjoy physical exercise whilst in the childminder's care and regularly play with balls and garden equipment such as slides, bikes and a small trampoline. This helps children to develop their physical skills as well as gain confidence in their own abilities. Children's fine motor skills are developed as the childminder makes sure children have activities that involve using crayons, rolling pins, glue sticks and cutters.

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a secure environment where they can move around safely. The childminder's home is welcoming to parents and children and good use is made of the space where children play. Both indoors and outside children have access to a range of toys that are well maintained and of good quality. The toys offer children stimulation and challenge and are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Risks to children have been minimised by the childminder who regularly checks her home for hazards and takes action if any areas are found to be harmful to children. For example, by making all sockets inaccessible to children and by purchasing smoke alarms that have carbon monoxide detectors incorporated.

Children's well being is supported as the childminder has knowledge of child protection issues and knows how to proceed if she has a concern about a child in her care. However, a copy of the local safeguarding children's board guidelines relating to child protection is not kept on site.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of activities provided by the childminder and these offer stimulation and challenge. Toys and resources are easily accessible to children, who are encouraged to use their imaginations during play. For example, children are playing on the floor with a construction kit. Road pieces are fitted together and various cars and public service vehicles are set up, matching the play people to the vehicles i.e. nurse and doctor to the ambulance, post man to the post office van and the fireman to the fire engine. A post office is added and fun is had as the play people walk onto the welcome mat within the post office and make the bell ring. A red telephone box is then added to the scene and its bell is rung to give the impression there is a call. Play figures are put in the box to answer the telephone. Traffic lights are added and their colours and significance identified. This activity helps children with their knowledge and understanding of the world, develops their mathematical skills by fitting the road together and stimulates their imaginations whilst creating different scenarios for the play people and their vehicles.

Children are taken out to local parks where they access apparatus suitable for their age and stage of development. In the school holidays trips to soft play centres, farms and parks are undertaken extending children's knowledge of the wider world and their local community.

Children's social and language skills are encouraged by the childminder who sits and chats to them whilst eating meals together. The childminder asks children questions that make them think and gives them time to answer in their own way. Children's independent skills are supported as they are encouraged to put toys away when they have finished playing with them and are given time to put on and take off their own outdoor clothing.

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

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed as individuals by the childminder who makes sure children's individual needs are met according to their parents wishes. Children's work is valued by the childminder who saves any drawings to give to parents at the end of the day so that they can be displayed at home. This helps boost children's self-esteem. Limited resources that reflect other cultures or people with disability within the collection of toys for minded children hinders their appreciation of diversity.

The childminder has developed close and loving relationships with the children in her care. They turn to her for support and comfort and she responds with cuddles and reassurance. The childminder has developed strategies for dealing with inappropriate behaviour, for example, using a firmer voice or distraction and by giving children explanations of why they should not do something. The childminder uses lots of praise to re-enforce positive behaviour.

The childminder has developed professional and friendly relationships with parents who are kept informed verbally of their child's progress and any activities they have participated in during the day. This ensures continuity of care for children.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by a childminder who is organised and who intends to further her child care practice by attending training courses. Criminal bureau checks are carried out on all adults over 16 years of age residing in the home and this supports children's well being. All regulatory documentation is in place and this guides the childminder in her daily practice to ensure children's needs are met. Informal discussions with children's parents ensure they are kept informed and this supports children's well being.

Children benefit from good adult support to help them feel secure and confident. The day is well planned allowing them time for quiet and active play. Information kept on children is relevant and helps promote their welfare.

Overall the childminder meets the needs of the 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 a copy of the local safeguarding children's board guidelines for child protection is in place
- provide children with resources that will help support their understanding of diversity.

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)