



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY232648
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 March 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Sandra Laura Bates
<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 registered in April 2003. She is registered to care for three children at any one time and is currently minding two children only one of whom attends on a full time basis. The childminder lives with her husband and their two children aged over five years, in a semi detached house in the Byfleet. The property is situated in a quiet, residential no through road and is close to schools, shops, the library and the park. Children have access to the ground floor only which consists of a sitting room, kitchen and dining room with toilet and washing facilities on this floor. There is access to a securely enclosed rear garden for outdoor play. The childminder also makes regular use of other play venues and groups.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children receive their care in clean and well maintained surroundings. They begin to develop an awareness of how to manage their own personal hygiene needs effectively, and know why this is important. For instance, children say that they must wash their hands after covering their mouth when coughing to wash off the germs. They talk about using the soap and rinsing this off. Children are protected from infections due to the childminder's clear policy relating to the exclusion of sick children. Children move around energetically and develop their physical skills during outdoor play both at home and on regular outings to other local play venues.

Children receive appropriate care in the event of an accident because the childminder has the relevant skills, resources and documents to ensure that children are well cared for in this respect.

Children sit together at the table to enjoy the healthy and nutritious range of meals provided by the childminder, which supplement the snacks and light meals provided by some parents. The childminder ensures that children take regular drinks and offers snacks at appropriate intervals. She records what the children have eaten in their daily diaries so that parents are kept well informed.

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

The provision is good.

Children play and rest in a safe and secure environment. The childminder creates a warm and welcoming setting for children. She identifies all potential hazards and takes appropriate steps to reduce risks to children. Children are protected in the event of an emergency because the childminder has a clear evacuation plan and practices this with the children. Children understand what is expected of them if the smoke alarm is activated and talk about a previous fire drill. However, the fire blanket is not fitted appropriately to allow easy access.

Children use clean and suitable resources that are set out so that they can easily access those materials that are appropriate to their age or stage of development. The childminder provides suitable nursery equipment to facilitate the needs of the children cared for.

Children's welfare is promoted due to the childminder's secure understanding of child protection issues and the related referral procedures. She has complete confidence in her ability to recognise any signs or symptoms of abuse, and knows the steps to take if she has any concerns.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle very well and are content in the childminder's care. A relaxed and mutually affectionate relationship exists between the children and the childminder. The childminder actively engages with the children, supporting and encouraging them as they play. Children enjoy individual attention and do not become bored or disruptive. They show a sustained

interest in the materials which they use in an imaginative way. Children play with a toy supermarket till and conveyor, and enact scenarios as they weigh the goods and make announcements on the loudspeaker to their customers.

Children cuddle in comfortably beside the childminder to share a story book. The childminder extends this activity by encouraging the children to pretend to be characters from the story. Children pretend to be slithery snakes and slide and wriggle on the floor. They enjoy the admiration and praise that the childminder offers in recognition of their efforts. Children make drawings about the story they have shared and begin to print their names on these with the childminder's support. The childminder recognises, and effectively uses, everyday opportunities during children's play to extend their thinking and learning.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's clear understanding of their individual needs and preferences. She knows the children well and ensures that she is fully informed about each child's needs through discussion with parents and well maintained personal records. She monitors the children's development on a daily basis. Children play with a range of materials, and enjoy outings, that help to develop their knowledge and understanding of the wider world and their own community. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are likely to be well supported due to the childminder's accommodating attitude and significant previous experience in this field of care.

Children behave well and respect the childminder's fair and equitable authority. They share and take turns when politely asked by the childminder to consider each other's wishes. The childminder has realistic expectations of children and uses a sticker award system to reinforce wanted behaviours or special achievements, which the children appreciate and strive to achieve. The childminder is alert to the needs and behaviour of the children and intervenes promptly to diffuse and resolve any problems. Her behaviour management strategies are under-pinned by a policy statement, shared with parents, which has a strong focus on positive reinforcement.

Children benefit from the consistency of care achieved through open and honest discussion with parents and through carefully recorded details of what children do and achieve. Parents have good initial information about the setting and on-going information detailed in each child's daily diary.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She arranges the space and resources well so that children can move around freely and select materials independently. Her considerable experience and qualifications ensure that she has the skills to provide good quality care for children. The childminder is committed to continuing to enhancing her skills through on-going training.

The childminder provides a detailed portfolio of supporting documentation and information for parents that includes policy statements relating to such areas as child protection; equal opportunity; behaviour management and health and safety. All the regulatory documentation is in place although this lacks the necessary detail in respect of the attendance records. The childminder has not yet re-activated her insurance cover which was suspended while on maternity leave.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that all low level glass was made safe or inaccessible to children. At this inspection there was no evidence of any unprotected glass, all glazing at low level is toughened safety glass. Any questionable items have been removed to ensure children's safety in this respect.

The childminder was also asked to address a small number of minor safety issues relating to the garden, the smoke alarm, the security of the premises and the facilities for sleeping children. These risks to children have now been eliminated and appropriate arrangements put in place for sleeping children to rest comfortably.

In addition, the childminder was recommended to improve the way in which the attendance register was maintained. This remains an area that requires further improvement to ensure that days and times of arrival and departure of children is clearly recorded in a single document.

### **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):

- ensure that the fire blanket is fixed in place according to the manufacturer's instructions

- ensure that details of children's attendance, including days and times of arrival and departure, are clearly recorded in a single document
- ensure that valid, appropriate insurance cover is always in place when minding.

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)