

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY331129
<b>Inspection date</b>	02 May 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Joanna Scott

<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 2006. She lives with her husband and two children aged four and two in Woking, in Surrey. The whole of the single story house is used for childminding, and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding five children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. She supports children who have English as an additional language. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group and takes children to the library and parks. The childminder has pet cats, rabbits and guinea pigs. She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a home which is well maintained. The childminder has regular routines in place to ensure that the children play in a healthy environment, and with clean resources. She wears gloves when changing nappies and uses antibacterial wipes to clean the

changing mat, and the children use separate towels to dry their hands. There are clear procedures in place for when children are unwell. All of these measures help to prevent cross infection, and protect children's health.

The children enjoy a regular routine which enables them to enjoy periods of active play and times to rest in line with their needs. They regularly walk, visit parks and play in the garden. This is good for their fitness, and promotes their good health. They have opportunities to ride push along toys and play with balls, and this develops their co-ordination and control of their bodies.

The children enjoy a well balanced diet. Individual needs are met as the childminder liaises closely with parents to ensure that dietary requirements are accounted for. Food is stored and cooked safely in line with the food hygiene training the childminder has attended. She is skilled at encouraging children to be more adventurous with trying foods, and making meals look appetising. For example placing the foods into the shape of a smiley face on the plate, or toast fingers fanned out around an egg to make "sunshine". The children are learning how to make healthy choices about foods because they regularly discuss nutrition at mealtimes.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder supervises the children very well. They are cared for in a home where most risks have been identified, and minimized. For example the childminder uses a gate to block access into the kitchen, and has put padding around the fire hearth to protect babies. However, there is a potential risk to older children who could open the safety gate, as chemicals and medicines are stored at low level in the kitchen.

The children play with toys which are well maintained. Many are accessible for children to self access. The childminder is imaginative, and uses resources such as polystyrene chips and autumnal leaves for sensory play. This is well supervised to ensure that younger children do not put them in their mouth and present a choking hazard.

The children are beginning to learn how to keep themselves safe. The childminder talks to them about road safety as they go for walks, such as choosing a safe place to cross the road. They also learn about fire safety as they talk about, and practise evacuation. This means they know how to leave the house quickly and safely if they are told to do so.

The children are safeguarded because the childminder has a clear procedure to follow should she have a concern about child protection. She has included a statement about this in the documentation that she gives to parents.

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

The provision is good.

The children enjoy a warm relationship with the childminder. She is very aware of their needs, for example she understands that a young child is having a clingy day and is reluctant to let her out of sight, so she talks about what she is doing, which is reassuring and helps the child to settle. Children receive lots of praise, and encouragement throughout the day. For instance the childminder gives verbal and facial clues that she is pleased when a younger child puts the spoon of food into their own mouth, and this encourages them to grow in independence.

The children enjoy regular trips out of the home, to places such as the library and toddler groups. This enables them to mix in larger groups of children and adults, and builds their confidence and social skills. The childminder has attended training on the Birth to three matters framework, and implements this in her planning. She provides lots of art and craft, such as painting pictures on very large paper, and making a "below the sea" display out of a box. She also provides some sensory experiences, for example out in the garden the children enjoy playing together with the water, splashing and patting, which causes much merriment.

The childminder plans her day to ensure that the children experience opportunities that are of interest to them and provide challenge, such as camp building and well supervised wood work activities with older children.

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

The provision is good.

The children are settled and happy because the childminder meets their individual needs. They benefit because the childminder builds good relationships with the parents, sharing information and taking account of their home routines. Verbal communication is used, with additional phone conversations during the day if necessary. The childminder completes a daily sheet giving details about younger children's care. This ensures that parents get a clear picture of their child's day. Parents are given a colourful and informative booklet which outlines key aspects of her childminding service.

The children learn how to behave well. They share, and play together. The childminder has a positive and consistent approach which the children understand. She encourages them to co-operate and take an active role in the day to day running of the setting, such as helping to clear the toys away, and unloading the washing machine. The children develop good manners, they say "please" and "thank you". The childminder acts as a good role model, which promotes this.

The children get the opportunity to take part in activities such as making lamps to celebrate Diwali, and having a Chinese evening where the children make hats, and enjoy a Chinese meal. This raises the children's awareness of the wider world, and helps to develop a positive attitude.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home. The childminder organises her home and her time to ensure that the children experience a range of play activities and experiences in and out of the home. The children have room to move around and play, and are able to access many of the toys independently which develops independence. Required adult to child ratios are maintained at all times, and this ensures that the children are well supported.

The childminder has attended some relevant training related to the care and development of children, and this has developed her skills and knowledge. There are a range of key policies and procedures in place which are followed and shared with parents, which informs them about the childminding service provided. She has most of the required records and documentation in place which safeguards the children's welfare and care, however a written record of parental permission to seek emergency treatment or advise is not in place for all children. Overall, 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 that all parental permissions to seek emergency treatment or advise are formalised
- ensure that hazardous cleaning products and medicines are safely out of reach of all 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)