

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	160508
<b>Inspection date</b>	11 June 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 1992. She lives with her husband and adult daughter in Milford, a village near Godalming in Surrey. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding seven children, most of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group, takes children to the local library, and the park. 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 healthy environment. There are regular practices in place to ensure that the home and resources are clean and suitable for use. There is a sick child policy in place, and this helps to prevent the spread of illness. The children learn from an early age to wash their hands and brush their teeth. This promotes good health, and teaches them the importance of self care routines.

The children have daily opportunities to play actively in the garden or at the park. They regularly walk to and from school. This is beneficial because they play in the fresh air, they develop their fitness, and their co-ordination and balance. Their growth and development is promoted.

The children eat a healthy diet. Parents provide meals which are stored and served safely, in line with the food hygiene training the childminder has attended. The childminder provides healthy snacks for the children, such as dried and fresh fruit, and this helps children to make early links between good health and good diet. Younger children are offered drinks on a regular basis, and beakers are accessible throughout the day, which helps children to consider their own needs, and develop independence. The childminder takes dietary needs into consideration when providing food.

Accurate records of accidents and medication are maintained, and the childminder has current first aid training in place which means she has the skills to care for a child should they be injured, and their health and welfare needs are met.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children play in an environment where most hazards are identified and risks minimized, for example by use of safety equipment such as stair gates to prevent access to the stairs and kitchen, and very good supervision in and out of the home. However, there is some glass stored at low level in the dining room, and the garden gate does not always remain bolted to prevent access from the front of the property.

The childminder has an evacuation procedure, and safety equipment in use to detect fire and protect the children. The children are learning how to keep themselves safe because they regularly practise fire evacuation, and even young children are skilled at following the childminder's instruction and leave the house quickly and safely.

The children play with resources which are well maintained, and suitable for their age and stage of development. The childminder checks these regularly to ensure they remain suitable for use, and encourages the children to be aware of keeping small parts out of the reach of babies in case they choke.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues, and procedures to follow should she have a concern about a child. This helps to safeguard children.

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

The provision is good.

The children are very happy here. They are busily occupied in worthwhile activities which they enjoy, and which challenge them. For example the children demonstrate a love of books and stories, they thread, enjoy art and craft, and babies play with resources which are appealing and include a treasure basket. Children's awareness of colours and numbers is encouraged, for example they count the finger puppets one by one. The childminder interacts very well with the children. She sits on the floor and plays with them, she reads them stories, and verbally encourages them as they play, for example as they complete jigsaws. This results in children being confident. She plans activities in advance, such as making cards and paintings for Father's Day, and setting the water tray out before the children arrive. This ensures that the children have access to a wide range of activities which promote their learning through play.

The childminder has attended some training in the Birth to three matters framework, and keeps a record of younger children's development which is shared with parents.

The children enjoy a range of activities out of the home, including trips to the park and toddler groups. This enables them to mix with a wider range of children and adults, and is beneficial to their social interaction.

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

The provision is good.

The children are cared for with equal concern. The childminder works closely with the parents to ensure that the individual care and developmental needs of each child are met. Young children are encouraged to treat others with concern and respect, and generally be aware of each other. Children learn about the world around them. The childminder provides resources which reflect diversity and stimulate conversation such as a book she has created with images of different people in, and a dolls wheel chair which prompts children to think about why people need such equipment. This early awareness helps children to develop positive attitudes.

The children behave very well. The childminder has consistent rules and boundaries which the children understand, such as not throwing toys. She uses effective methods to manage unwanted behaviour, for example discussion, distraction and time out, and she ensures that children are fully and meaningfully occupied. She uses reward stickers as an incentive to young children. These measures encourage children to behave well.

Strong links with parents promote working in partnership. The childminder has a range of documentation which reflects her business, and which makes links to Ofsted, the National Standards and the Birth to three matters framework. This helps parents to understand the childminder's role, and the role of regulation. Systems are in place which ensure information is shared verbally, including over the phone if necessary. This allows the childminder to provide care routines in line with those at home.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder is highly proactive in accessing training to develop her skills and knowledge, and has identified future areas on her personal development plan. This illustrates her commitment to providing a professional and well organised service.

The childminder organises her home extremely well to ensure that the environment is welcoming and stimulating to children. She plans her day well which enables her to meet children's needs, and they enjoy a wide range of exciting activities. She takes account of individual home routines, allowing for consistency of care for younger children. Ratios are maintained, which ensures that children are well supported.

All regulatory documentation is in place, and stored appropriately. Written agreements and parental permissions are in use, although the permission for outings lacks some detail. There are a comprehensive set of policies and procedures which reflect the service the childminder provides. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that potential hazards in the garden were inaccessible to the children. This related to an area used for composting, which is now fenced to prevent the children's access. She was also asked to have a record of permission for any medication given to children. Parents now sign to give permission to administer medication to their child, and initial or sign the record afterwards to acknowledge it has been done. This is beneficial to the children's welfare.

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

Since April 2004, 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):

- develop further the detail in parental permissions for outings
- ensure that any risk assessment of the premises takes full account of security, and storage of glass at low level

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)