

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	507487
<b>Inspection date</b>	07 June 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Debbie Molly O'Callaghan
<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 has been registered since 1990. She is registered to care for six children under eight, not more than three under five years. There are currently five children on roll. She lives with her husband and two older children in a house on the outskirts of Redhill. Within the local area there are schools, shops, parks and other child centred amenities. The childminder cares for the children using the lounge/dining room. Toilet facilities are upstairs. Children sleep in an upstairs bedroom. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have no pets.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean, well maintained environment.

Children enjoy a worthwhile range of activities which help to promote their good health. They learn about the importance of good personal hygiene and understand why they need to wash their hands after visiting the toilet or before eating food.

Lunch is provided by parents which the childminder heats and serves. This is supplemented with nutritious snacks such as fruit and yoghurts. Children are learning independence skills as they are encouraged to feed themselves. Children know when they are thirsty and have access to drinks at all times.

The childminder has a current first aid certificate and the necessary permission to seek emergency medical advice if necessary.

Children enjoy regular physical play both indoors and out. They attend drop-in groups, visit the park and have regular access to outdoor play. The children's own daily routines are followed, including times for rest and quiet play.

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a safe, well maintained environment where they can play and move around safely.

Play materials and equipment are of good quality, age appropriate and easily accessible to the children.

The childminder has a range of safety equipment including interlinked smoke alarms and safety gates. The childminder has thought through fire evacuation in the home and identified fire exits, however, fire safety equipment is not correctly sited.

The outdoor play area is safe and fully enclosed, however the side gate is not fully secure.

There is a good range of outdoor play equipment enabling children to develop their physical skills including jumping, pushing and climbing.

Children are learning about safety as the childminder reminds them to be careful on the steps into the garden, talks to them about road safety and that small parts must be kept away from the babies.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and has made parents aware of her responsibilities, she is aware of procedures to follow should she have concerns about a child in her care.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled with the childminder. She is attentive and gives regular praise and encouragement which increases their self esteem. Children are familiar with the daily routine and feel confident in their environment. Babies receive cuddles and attention as they play happily on the floor with push a long toys.

Outings to local drop-in groups, parks and regular meetings with other childminders are built into the daily routine. This helps to ensure that children develop good social skills and a sense of the world around them.

Children are encouraged with the childminder's help to build towers and complete puzzles, they are being introduced to colours and learning to count as the childminder talks to the children about 'how many' and 'what colour is this one'.

Children's language is being developed as the childminder talks to the children about their day and helps them to recall events such as what they were doing at playgroup.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children learn about the world around them through outings to local drop-in groups, parks and the library. The childminder is aware of the needs of the children in her care but her resources do not include equipment to promote diversity and awareness of disability.

Children receive praise and recognition for their achievements. The childminder manages their behaviour through distraction and explanation, she gives the children frequent praise and encouragement. Children are well behaved.

The childminder keeps parents well informed verbally of children's progress which has a positive impact on their overall well being and development.

The childminder has written a daily routine of her day to share with parents, she has a good relationship with parents, she discusses any issues and allows time at the end of the day for this.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are able to play in a well organised environment that is uncluttered and child friendly. Children can reach toys and resources easily as they are stored in low level containers. The time children spend with the childminder is well organised, providing a varied daily routine that allows children to engage in free flow play in the home and garden and outings in the local community.

Children's progress is verbally discussed through daily feedback. There are sound procedures in place for recording accidents and medication administration.

Children are protected from adults who have not been vetted, as the childminder ensures that all relevant checks are completed on members of her household.

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 children have access to an expanded range of toys and resources that reflect positive images for children of culture/ethnicity and disability. The childminder has obtained some resources however the range is still limited.

The childminder was asked to ensure that accurate records of the administration of medication are kept; and that individual written permission from parents is sort for the giving of medication. Accurate medication records are now in place and consent has been obtained from parents, this helps to safeguard children's welfare.

The childminder was asked to improve fire safety precautions by ensuring a smoke alarm is in place and maintained on each level of the setting. The childminder has two interlinked smoke alarms in place ensuring children's safety in the event of a fire.

### **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 the side gate is secure
- ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and play opportunities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.
- ensure fire safety equipment is correctly sited.

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)