

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	401916
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 July 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Teresa Elkington

<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 2001. She lives with her husband and son aged nine years in Maidenbower, Crawley, West Sussex. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding purposes and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding seven children under five, all of whom attend on a part time basis and one child over five after school. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group. The family have 1 cat and a cockatiel. The childminder is a member of a local childminder support group.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely well cared for in a home that is very clean and maintained to a high standard. They enjoy a healthy lifestyle as the childminder follows appropriate guidelines and effective procedures in all areas of the provision. Children's health needs are promoted effectively

as they are well taken care of in the event of an accident or if they become ill, due to the childminders knowledge of first aid and the well maintained first aid kits which are readily available. Children learn the importance of good practise when developing their independence in their personal care routines. For example, the use of individual hand towels and flannels ensures that children are protected from cross contamination and that hand washing routines ensure that children develop an understanding from an early age as to the importance of protecting themselves. The childminder provides a good role model for children, as high priority is given to good hygiene practice in every day routines and nappy changing procedures. Extremely good pet care routines ensure that children are effectively protected.

Children have their health and dietary needs fully met as the childminder works effectively with the parents and keeps comprehensive records. The childminder holds a food hygiene certificate and is fully aware of children's individual dietary needs. Arrangements for providing foods is discussed and agreed with parents. Children's packed lunches are appropriately stored to ensure their well-being. The childminder is very aware of providing children with a balanced and nutritious diet and has a range of well thought out menus available so that parents are fully aware of what meals will be provided. Children have access to regular drinks though the day; younger children have lidded beakers with water near them and older children are encouraged to independently pour their own drinks as needed from the jug of water available to them in the fridge.

Children have opportunities to rest and sleep according to their needs in quiet and comfortable surroundings. They benefit from plenty of fresh air as they make regular visits to the park and go on walks within the local community. Excellent use is made of the garden as children have free access to outdoor play. Children use a wide range of equipment offering many opportunities for different types of movement and physical exercise, for example, through their use of rockers, slide, push along resources and games for the older children.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and secure environment, They are appropriately protected from harm as the childminder uses risk assessments and well implemented polices and procedures to ensure that children are safeguarded. However, the rotary washing line is not always stored appropriately to ensure that children's safety is promoted at all times. Children become aware of keeping themselves safe and avoiding accidental injury, by using play equipment that is appropriate for their individual needs and as they abide by rules of the road and act according to the instructions of the childminder as they practice fire drills.

Children use an appropriate, safe and suitable range of play resources and equipment, which meets and supports the needs of all children being cared for. All equipment is of good quality and design and well maintained through regular checks and cleaning regimes, ensuring that they are in a clean and well maintained condition.

Children are fully protected as the childminder has a sound understanding of her role and responsibilities in safeguarding children. She is fully aware of appropriate procedures to put into practice if necessary and provides parents with information regarding the local safeguarding children procedures.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a very warm, fun and happy environment for children. She knows the children extremely well and is very attentive to their individual needs. For example, the childminder is able to confidently recognise when children are getting tired and comforts them and gives them plenty of cuddles. The childminder is skilled at organising activities which all children of different ages can join in. For example, as children sit on the floor together singing and making the actions to the songs, with additional support given to the younger children so that they integrated into the group. They receive appropriate support, guidance and individual attention from the childminder as they undertake the wealth of learning opportunities available to them.

Children have opportunities for independent play and can access a range of toys and resources for themselves. They are actively encouraged to be considerate and helpful to others and begin to take responsibility for simple tasks such as taking snack bowls into the play room for younger children to enjoy and by selecting toys that they feel would be appropriate for very young children to play with. They enjoy a wide range of outings and opportunities for physical play, such as walking to the park, and visiting toddler groups. The childminder plans activities appropriately to suit the children's understanding and their developing needs. She recognises the importance of play in the children's' development and provides for the differing needs and various age groups that she cares for.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals and benefit from the childminder knowing them well and responding to their individual needs. Children's awareness of the wider world is promoted through the use of resources, which helps them to develop a positive attitude towards diversity. The childminders sound understanding of equality of opportunity is evident throughout her practise and reflected in her written policies. This ensures all children are made welcome and are fully included in the life of the setting.

The childminder adopts a very calm, competent approach, where children learn to share and co-operate together through explanation and from the good role model set by the childminder. Appropriate behaviour management strategies are employed, according to the ages and stage of development of the children, which helps them to understand right from wrong. The childminder uses positive recognition through continual praise and encouragement which helps children feel settled and encourages good behaviour.

The children benefit from the good relationships the childminder has with their parents. The childminder recognises the importance of working in partnership with parents and has established friendly and positive relationships with them to ensure that children's individual care needs are recognised, discussed and planned for. Parents receive comprehensive written information about the provision and are kept fully informed about their children's care needs and the activities that they enjoy.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care, learning and play is enhanced by the childminders professional approach and good organisation skills. Space is used appropriately and the day is well organised to ensure that all children's individual needs are met. The childminder uses effective and well implemented policies and procedures to ensure children are well protected and cared for. All of the legally required records and documentation are clearly presented and well maintained. The certificate of registration and other relevant information is displayed and made available to parents, in order to keep them fully informed about the service she provides for the children.

The childminder has a full understanding of her role and responsibilities as a childminder and adheres to the National Standards. She is committed to updating her knowledge to build on her good practice which ensures that she maintains a high regard for the well-being of all children and their development in their early years.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection a recommendation was made for the childminder to consider developing a written special needs policy statement. This has now been implemented, thus highlighting the inclusive service that the childminder provides.

## **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 washing line is stored appropriately so that it does not pose a risk to 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)