

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	122385
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Helen Penticost
<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 outstanding. 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 1993. She lives with her husband and two teenage children in Reigate, Surrey. The playroom, kitchen/diner and two upstairs bedrooms are 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 five children under five, all of whom attend on a part time basis and four children over five after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder occasionally works with an assistant. She attends the local childminding groups. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local Childminding Network.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health is very well promoted by the childminder's high standards of hygiene which she introduces to children. They learn to wash their hands and are provided with individual

flannels and hand towels to prevent the spread of infection. Both within the kitchen and the downstairs cloakroom, there are child friendly posters gently reminding and encouraging children to wash their hands. Children have access to an immaculately clean and hygienic environment which promotes their wellbeing at all times. The childminder requests information regarding children's health and medical needs, to ensure that appropriate care can be given. This is recorded thoroughly using national childminding association forms and record books. A comprehensive written sickness policy which is shared with parents and carers, ensures that all children are cared for within a very safe environment, which is free from infection.

Children are well nourished and receive a range of very healthy and nutritious snacks and drinks throughout their minded day. Again the childminder liaises closely with parents and carers regarding meal provision, allergies and preferences. During the inspection children enjoyed a snack of fresh and dried fruit, and bread sticks. Children enjoy meal and snack times that are well conducted, sociable and offer the children healthy choices.

Children's physical wellbeing is highly promoted, through either planned or spontaneous activities. These activities include trips to local parks where they practise climbing and balancing skills. This enables them to develop their large muscle movement and as a result children develop a positive attitude to physical exercise. Children develop a range of small muscle skills as they competently use a variety of construction equipment, for example, as they use crayons, pencils and other creative materials during craft activities. This promotes hand and eye co-ordination and finger control. Children are able to rest and sleep as they require.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children have a very safe environment in which to play, where risks are substantially minimised due to the diligence of the childminder. Comprehensive and thorough written risk assessments are in place for inside and outside the home, to reduce any potential hazard and every consideration is given to ensure children are safe at all times. High priority is given to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe. Safety issues are regularly discussed and explained to the children. Planned activities further enhance children's knowledge and understanding as they discuss people who help us such as fire fighters. The childminder has an excellent understanding of creating a balance between encouraging children's freedom and setting limits to maintain their safety.

Children understand what to do in the event of a fire, as emergency evacuation procedures are regularly practised, taking into account patterns in children's attendance. The childminder also uses books and stories to reinforce children's understanding. Children thoroughly enjoy visits to the fire station, where they learn the importance of fire safety.

Children are very well protected by the childminder who has a clear and robust understanding in all aspects of child protection. Comprehensive and effective policies and procedures are in place to promote children's welfare. The childminder continually undertakes any relevant training regarding health and safety to enhance her practice and safeguard the children in her care.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's enjoyment and achievements at the setting are greatly promoted through the excellent documentation in place, including photographs of the children and written assessment records. They are very happy, settled and relaxed in the company of the childminder. High quality adult-child interactions are extremely supportive of early communication skills. They are motivated and enthusiastically participate in and enjoy the well planned activities and experiences offered to them.

The childminder uses her wealth of experience to plan an extensive range of opportunities and activities, which are organised around particular themes of interest. Younger children benefit from the childminder's excellent understanding of the Birth to three matters framework. Resources such as treasure baskets allow younger children to explore and also enjoy the favourite game of emptying the basket.

Children of all ages undertake creative activities such as painting and cooking. The childminder is perceptive to children's interests and she allows children to develop these. She uses effective systems to observe, monitor and record children's achievements in their assessments.

Children have access to an extensive range of toys, equipment and resources. During the inspection children were highly motivated and actively engrossed in imaginary play and use different areas of the available space to play. They make excellent progress because the childminder recognises the uniqueness of each child. Close and caring relationships with the childminder increase children's sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of self. Children have their own child height pegs and a shoe holder, for their bags and outdoor clothing.

Children are offered a varied timetable of different play experiences and activities on a regular basis which enables them to learn new skills and consolidate existing ones. For example, children attend a variety of child-centred settings away from the premises, including childminding network organised play and learning groups. These encourage the development of social skills and range of physical skills.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual needs and characters are clearly understood and respected by the childminder. All children are welcomed and included in the provision. The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and to help children understand differences and similarities. For example, children use books and play with characters from different cultures, they acknowledge different festivals like Chinese New Year and Diwali, and learn French words. Children learn to value differences through sensitive discussions, stories, the home made scrap book and the use of developmentally appropriate resources. They are receptive to the childminder's inspiring role modelling.

Children's behaviour is exceptional. The childminder has a positive, clear and consistent approach to behaviour management, which means children know what is expected of them and they feel secure. Children play very happily together in the childminder's care, they learn to share and take turns as the childminder uses her effective skills to encourage and help them develop their relationships with one another. The childminder promotes positive behaviour by praising the good behaviour, for example, clapping and cheering when children achieve their goals such as

knocking down the skittles with the ball. She develops an atmosphere where children are encouraged to play together and enjoy each other's company.

The excellent partnerships with parents contributes significantly to the children's care and wellbeing. The childminder provides detailed information about the service that she provides including her clear, well written policies, daily routines and family details. She has a very professional and well written portfolio for new families, to help them to become familiar with the environment, childminder and her family. The information about the childminder's family is written in a jovial manner, which makes it individual to the setting. Written progress reports keep parents well informed of their child's achievements and parent questionnaires have been devised and completed to enable the childminder to review her practice. Comments from parents include; 'The play opportunities you provide are in such a way which ensures a variety of developmental areas' and 'My child is rarely unhappy to see me leave, which to me is a great sign of his happiness at being left with you'. This ensures that children's care, well-being and development is greatly enhanced.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from an exceptionally well organised routine and stimulating programme of activities. They are very happy, comfortable and settled in a warm and caring environment, where their individual needs are met. The children spend their time purposefully and all activities are planned to maximise play, learning and development opportunities for the children, taking into account each child's individual needs. The childminder works with her mother as an assistant and she knows all of the children well and they are at ease in her care. They run to the front door to greet her and are desperate to show their toys and play with her.

Excellent and comprehensively written policies and procedures are in place, which are individual to the setting. They address each of the National Standards and have a positive impact on children's safety and wellbeing. All documentation which is regularly reviewed and updated is shared with parents to keep them well informed about the service. The childminder is very aware of her role in delivering a professional service that enables children to make good progress. She ensures that the children have a range of different experiences and has a very good knowledge and understanding of the Birth to three matters framework. Very informative and detailed assessment records detail children's progress in all areas of their development and these are shared with parents. The childminder's excellent knowledge and practice ensures that all children are able to develop their full potential.

Children benefit from the care of a childminder, who is highly motivated and regularly attends training courses. She liaises with other childminders to discuss current childminding issues and provide a support system. In addition she continually monitors and evaluates her practice, working closely with her network coordinator to enhance children's play and learning. The provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

At the previous inspection the childminder was requested to ensure that the outside area is kept secure. The garden is fully enclosed and gates are secure.

## **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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)