

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	121470
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 September 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	June Fielden
<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 1995. She lives with her husband and three teenage daughters in Lingfield, Surrey. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding, plus a first floor bedroom. 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 three children under five part-time, and three children over five after school. She walks and drives to the local schools, parks and shops. The childminder regularly attends a toddler group. The family has a pet rabbit.

The childminder is a member of an approved Childminding Network.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are provided with a wide range of opportunities to enable them to keep fit and exercise. They enjoy playing with the substantial range of equipment provided in the childminder's

garden, including swings and a slide. Children visit farms and parks, and go on walks to feed the ducks. They have the chance to socialise at the groups they attend with the childminder, while strengthening their muscles on the resources provided. Children sleep or rest quietly in a travel cot in a bedroom or the childminder's living room.

Children are cared for in an exceedingly clean and tidy home. Sick children are excluded to protect others from infection. The childminder is committed to maintaining children's wellbeing, and keeps a chart detailing the different infectious diseases, to use for reference purposes. She obtains written permissions for emergency medical treatment of children and has extensive hygiene routines, in order to maintain children's health. She wipes children's noses when necessary, and teaches them that dirty tissues are put in the bin, to prevent the risk of cross contamination. Children's hands are cleaned before meals and after touching the pet, or playing in the garden, to protect them from infection.

Parents provide all their own food for children. The childminder has an effective understanding of healthy eating, and monitors what children eat, to ensure they have a healthy diet. Food that needs to be kept cool is placed in the fridge immediately when children arrive, to ensure it remains fresh. The childminder has experience of caring for children with food allergies, and obtains this information from parents when childminding commences. Drinks are always available to children to ensure they are not thirsty. The childminder raises older children's awareness of eating healthily by talking about the food they eat, and where the different products come from.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's welfare is assured through the comprehensive safety measures the childminder has in place. She carries out ongoing checks to see that there is nothing dangerous accessible to children, and completes a full risk assessment form provided by her Childminding Network. The childminder uses socket covers, and has a gate fitted at the bottom of the stairs, to prevent children having unsupervised access to the first floor of her home.

Children benefit from having their own extremely well stocked playroom, where they move around freely and help themselves to toys which are easily accessible to them. The substantial range of resources and equipment available are appropriate to the needs of all minded children. The photographs, maps and charts which decorate the walls of the playroom create a welcoming and friendly atmosphere for children.

Children are effectively protected from harm, as the childminder is aware of the signs of abuse, and recently attended a child protection workshop to update her knowledge in this subject. The childminder has the appropriate literature and is aware of how to seek advice and report her concerns.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children behave in a relaxed and confident manner in the childminder's care, as she speaks to them in a warm and friendly manner, enabling them to feel at home. The childminder provides an excellent range of activities to develop children's skills and abilities through play. She continually reinforces colour names and counting through everyday activities. For example, children are asked to count the number of coins they have when playing shops, and to talk

about the different shades of play dough they are using. The childminder encourages all children to participate in conversations by talking about things they have done at home, which are familiar to them. She develops children's independence by having high expectations for them. For example, young children are made aware that they should help to tidy up and get their shoes on for themselves when they play in the garden.

The childminder shares stories with children and brings the books to life by asking them to take turns at pulling objects connected to the story from a bag, to increase their involvement. She uses musical books with children, to stimulate their interest in them, singing along to the songs they play. Children become engrossed in the role play resources they use, pretending to feed the dolls, using toy bottles and food. The childminder joins in children's play to extend their games. She acts as the shop assistant while children use supermarket baskets, purses of money and a cash register to make their game more realistic. The childminder develops children's interest in nature by talking about the different type of strawberry plants, and the spiders webs they see in the garden.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are all treated with equal concern by the childminder. She liaises effectively with parents to meet their child's individual needs, and adheres to their wishes. For example, she ensures that some children are given a comforter when they go to sleep. The childminder provides purposeful resources to promote children's understanding of diversity. She is well organised and borrows materials from her Childminding Network, or the local library, to enable her to change them regularly, to maintain children's interest. Although the childminder does not currently have children with learning difficulties and disabilities on role, she has an extremely good understanding of how to meet their needs.

Parents are confident that the childminder provides an excellent service for children in her care. She keeps them extremely well informed about their child's progress through daily diaries, providing them with details of the food children have eaten, sleeps they have had and what they have been doing. Parents have the opportunity to talk to the childminder at the beginning and end of the day, and know that they can contact her by telephone at any time, if they wish to check on their child.

The childminder steps in quickly to prevent any disagreements between children escalating, and as a result they behave exceedingly well. She uses the older children as an example of good behaviour for the younger ones, and has some house rules for them to follow. The childminder promotes good conduct with praise and is consistent in the methods of behaviour management she uses.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's safety is assured when visitors are present, as the childminder remains with them at all times. She plans her days with the older children during the school holidays, taking into account the things they want to do, and provides them with choices. The childminder is eager to follow children's interests, and organises activities around them.

The childminder is proactive in securing training opportunities to update her knowledge and improve outcomes for children. She has a substantial folder of information for new parents, to

make them aware of how she organises her practice. This contains copies of her qualifications and insurance. It is divided into sections according to the outcomes for children, and gives useful information for parents under each heading. The childminder has produced a range of policies for parents, and they have been fully informed of her complaints procedure. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

The last care inspection recommended that the childminder records children's attendance on a daily basis, including times of arrival and departure, and that full details of children's immunisations are kept. It was also recommended that the fire blanket is easily accessible at all times.

The childminder now records all children's attendance, showing the times at which they are present, and keeps her fire blanket easily accessible in the kitchen, to maintain children's safety. She records details of all children's immunisations on their personal records, to ensure their wellbeing.

### **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)