

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	139520
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 July 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Jane Lester
<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 satisfactory. 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 2000. She lives with her daughter in a two-bedroom ground floor flat in a residential area on the border of Mitcham and Carshalton. All of the flat is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children under eight for a variety of sessions. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children and drives to soft play areas and parks. The family has two dogs. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She is a member of an approved childminding network.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a warm and clean home, where they are helped to understand that washing their hands after using the toilet and before eating helps keep them healthy. The childminder has effective procedures in place to prevent the spread of infection when attending

to children's personal needs. Parents are informed that the childminder is the named contact to collect minded children from school when they are ill. The childminder takes positive steps, such as wearing disposable gloves, using anti-bacterial wipes and keeping children apart to reduce the risks of cross-infection at these times. All appropriate written consents are obtained from parents and medication and accident records maintained. However, the childminder's first aid qualification has lapsed which means her knowledge of how to deal with accidents has not been updated.

Children are provided with regular drinks and benefit from nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to them and which meet their dietary needs. Meal arrangements are shared and agreed with parents to ensure their wishes are adhered to. Unfamiliar food is introduced sensitively and, as a result, children are keen to try new, healthy foods.

Children have direct access to the garden where they use a range of outdoor toys and resources which help them develop their physical skills. In fine weather they help the childminder to take the dogs for their exercise. They walk to the river to fish, play in the park and go swimming with the childminder.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure and settled in the childminder's home. Children's models and pictures displayed in the hallway foster their sense of belonging. They move around freely, as the space has been organised to meet their individual needs. Suitable toys and resources are available to support their all round development.

The children are kept safe and secure whilst on the premises. Positive steps have been taken by the childminder to make the environment safe for the children. For example, electrical leads, sockets and toxic substances are inaccessible to children and smoke alarms are in place. Children learn safety through clear rules such as not going near the cooker when it is on, or tidying up toys so they don't trip over them. Access to the garden area is supervised and the childminder ensures exits are secured.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder is aware of her role and responsibility to protect children. She has an appropriate understanding of signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedure to follow should she have concerns.

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

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy as they have good relationships with the childminder and other members of her family. They enjoy a warm and secure relationship with the childminder, which enables them to extend their learning in a supportive and caring environment. The children's feeling of security is enhanced through familiar daily routines. This provides a stable environment that helps the children to look forward to their day.

The childminder offers a wide range of resources and activities which promote all areas of learning and ensures that children's language, mathematical thinking, imagination and social relationships are well fostered. However resources are not organised so that they are readily accessible to children to support their play and learning.

The childminder supports children's imaginative play as they cook her a meal or put the wheeled vehicles through the car wash. Children giggle as they line up their toy pans next to hers in the kitchen cupboard. They benefit from her enthusiasm as she enjoys an assortment of stimulating craft activities with them. They learn to paint on tiles or make models from beads or plaster. She extends their language through conversation as they play. She encourages them to make choices and decisions as they choose which colour dough to make and play with. Their experiences in the home are enhanced through visits to parks, story time at the library and toddler groups where they develop their social skills.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a strong partnership with parents and carers which contributes significantly to their well-being. The childminder ensures that parents know how their children are progressing and developing by exchanging information verbally on a daily basis. She has a very warm approach to parents and offers friendly support outside minding hours. For example, she includes them on family days out and gives them computer support. This increases children's sense of security in her care and ensures she is well informed when she minds them.

The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of anti-discriminatory practice. Children are treated and respected as individuals and given equal access to all resources. They learn about the diversity of society through a range of activities and resources. Although there are no children currently attending with learning difficulties or disabilities the childminder demonstrates that she can meet their individual needs through close liaison with their parents and other agencies.

Children learn to behave appropriately through consistently applied rules and expectations. They respond positively to the childminder who ensures that behaviour is managed with use of praise, explanation and distraction. They are listened to and the childminder values what they say, which helps them to feel good about themselves.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Ratios are good and ensure each child receives good support. Most documents required for the welfare of the children are maintained satisfactorily. For example, the registration certificate hangs in the hall to ensure parents are informed about registration conditions and registers are maintained well. However, accident and medication records are held in one book and the organisation of this does not ensure confidentiality. In addition, the childminder has not arranged to undertake the required checks on her daughter.

The childminder organises her home so children can safely access most parts independently. Children have freedom of movement throughout most parts of the flat, and they have easy access to a large outdoor play area. There is a good balance of indoor and outdoor activities made available to children each day. The daily routine is organised around the children's needs and offers sufficient time for free play as well as organised activities. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection three recommendations were made. The childminder was asked to: complete an appropriate first aid course that included training in first aid for infants and young children; promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice through resources and activities; and include children's arrival and departure times in the attendance record.

Following the last inspection, the childminder completed an appropriate first aid course. However, as her certificate has now lapsed this recommendation has been raised again. Children are made aware of the diversity of society through play resources and activities, plus everyday experiences which offer them opportunities to mix in the local community. Children's registers of attendance are now maintained efficiently and accurately reflect the hours they are cared for by the childminder.

## **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 satisfactory. 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):

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- ensure resources are readily accessible to children to promote their independence and support their play and learning
- ensure accident and medication records are maintained confidentially
- ensure that persons over the age of 16 living in the household undergo checks including a criminal records check.

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)