

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	155432
<b>Inspection date</b>	08 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Jill Steer
<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 two children aged 11 and 13 years in Rustington, 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 three children under five, all of whom attend on a part time basis and one child over five after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family have two hamsters. The childminder is a member of a local childminder support group.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about the importance of good personal hygiene and self care skills through daily routines. For example, children wash their hands regularly during the day, particularly before eating and after visiting the toilet, learning they need to close the toilet seat prior to washing

their hands. The childminder acts in the children's best interest during times of illness. For example, she makes clear her expectation that parents will keep their children home if they are unwell. All accidents are clearly recorded, and details are shared with parents who sign the records.

Meals and snacks are freshly prepared and parents are consulted as to the correct diet for each child. However, the menus include many foods that are not healthy, such as sausage rolls, cake and crisps, so the children are not receiving a nutritiously balanced diet. Children can ask for drinks and the childminder offers and reminds them to drink at meal and snack times. However, children are not able to help themselves to drinks so children who are engrossed in their play or not able to ask, may remain thirsty.

Children are developing a healthy lifestyle and have many opportunities to enjoy fresh air and physical activity. Daily outings and activities in the home and garden, all allow children to develop their physical skills and gain control of their bodies. For example, they greatly enjoy jumping on the trampoline in the garden, going to the park and playing musical bumps indoors. Children are able to rest and sleep according to their individual routines and space and time are organised to allow children to be active or relax as they prefer.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time spent in the childminder's comfortable home. The arrangement of the rooms enables her to monitor and supervise children whilst they play as they are within her sight at all times. A good range of good quality resources is easily accessible to children that allow them to choose independently, building their confidence. The equipment is regularly checked to ensure everything remains in good condition for the children to play safely and any damaged items are quickly removed to protect the children from harm.

The childminder is vigilant about the children's safety on outings, ensuring for example, that they walk along holding either the buggy or each other's hands and they all hold hands in a line to cross roads. They use the Green Cross Code, which helps children learn how to cross safely and in a safe place. The childminder is aware of her responsibility regarding the protection of the children in her care. However, her knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse is basic, as is her understanding of the procedure to follow to report any concerns. This does not ensure children's welfare is fully protected.

Hazards have been identified and addressed in the childminder's home in order to keep children safe. For example, smoke alarms and a fire blanket have been fitted and the front door is kept locked to prevent anyone unauthorised entering or the children from leaving. The key is safely stored nearby to ensure they can easily leave the house in an emergency. The secure, enclosed garden provides additional space to extend children's play opportunities safely and the childminder remains nearby to participate or supervise as required.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled with the childminder. She provides good support as they explore the environment and resources, developing their skills and confidence. They enjoy a broad range of interesting activities, which provide stimulation and challenge, suitable for their individual stages of development. A warm and caring relationship has been developed and

children spend much of their time laughing as they clearly have fun with the childminder. For example, as they play chase round the garden, giggling effusively.

Daily planning generally includes time spent outside, either to the park or in the garden where a greater variety of activities are available for children to experience. Children develop their language and conversational skills as they engage in lively dialogues with the childminder and they constantly chat as they go about their chosen activities. For example, talking about a new puppy at home who will be going to puppy classes. The childminder responds to children's enquiries clearly. For example, explaining the reason the train carriages stick together is because they have magnets.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children behave well in the care of the childminder. Her calm disposition and supportive nature help to build children's self esteem. They respond well to consistent praise and encouragement from the childminder, which develops children's confidence and helps them to feel good about themselves. Children settle well as they observe the childminder's friendly relationship with their parents. A daily exchange of information ensures children's care needs are discussed and incorporated into the daily routines; maintaining a continuity of care which provides reassurance and stability for children.

Children's needs are effectively met, because the childminder takes the time to get to know them well. She ensures any identified needs are discussed with the parents, and works with them in order to support children's healthy development. The childminder is prepared to adapt the service she provides to meet the additional needs of some children. Regular outings provide children with a view of the local community, whilst some resources and discussions about the celebration of festivals at school, encourage children to think about differences between themselves and other people.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has attended the required training courses for childminding. For example, the Introduction to Childminding Practice and paediatric First Aid, which ensures she is able to care for children appropriately following an accident or injury. The registration certificate is clearly displayed and the childminder maintains confidentiality as she stores the childminding documentation securely. Most of the required documentation and records are in place to comply with regulations and are reviewed to ensure they contain the latest information, for the safety and well-being of the children. However, the childminder does not have written consent for routine outings and her register is not completed until children have gone home each day, so does not accurately show that they are present. Although the childminder records children's accidents for parents, she does not keep her own copy as a record of events whilst caring for children.

Children are closely supervised at all times to help keep them safe and protected from persons who may not have been vetted, both at home and when they are out. They are welcomed into the childminder's home which is a bright and comfortable environment with sufficient space for children to play together. They can access the resources independently as the childminder stores them at low level so children make their own choices. Children are closely supervised by the childminder who organises her time effectively in order to support the children as they

play. The well organised daily routine is based around the children's individual needs and to provide a wide range of stimulating learning experiences. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

Since the last inspection the childminder has obtained some books, dolls and small world figures to promote a positive image of diversity for children.

She has also replaced the glazed internal doors so children are kept safe.

### **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 food is healthy and nutritious and drinks are readily available
- update knowledge and understanding of child protection issues
- ensure all documentation relating to childminding practice is well maintained

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)