

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	160582
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 September 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Anne Jacqueline Nicholson
<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 has been registered since 1993. She lives with her husband and adult children in a quiet residential area close to West End, Bisley, Chobham and Lightwater in Surrey. The ground floor of the house is used for minding. Children have access to the lounge and playroom, plus the kitchen area. A secure rear garden is available for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to provide care for up to six children and currently has up to ten part time children on roll; five on a regular basis and five on an ad hoc basis.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children receive regular opportunities to participate in a range of activities that help to promote their good health and physical development. They enjoy going out to local country parks and ponds for nature walks and fresh air. They thrive through the childminder following effective practices and use of documentation to ensure their physical, nutritional and health needs remain prioritised. Children gain an excellent understanding of personal hygiene practices and receive good support to develop their personal independence skills. For instance a small step assists

them in reaching to wash their hands after using the toilet, doing creative activities, bug hunting and before eating.

Children's health and welfare needs remain met as there is clear written documentation in place for recording any accidents that occur or medication administered. Parents provide written consent prior to any medication being given to ensure that children receive the correct dosage at the right time. The childminder holds a valid First Aid certificate.

Throughout the day children have access to drinks to ensure they remain hydrated. Children's receive a very varied menu that takes into account their individual preferences and dietary needs. They enjoy a wide range of fresh food for lunch and tea and receive encouragement to try new tastes and textures. Meals are social occasions providing opportunities and encouragement for children to communicate together. Older children set good examples to the younger ones and support their development of good table manners.

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

The provision is good.

Children enter into a clean, tidy environment that has plenty of natural light and is made welcoming with resources set out ready for them and a notice board displaying information for parents in the hallway. The environment is made safe prior to their arrival to ensure they enjoy safe play. Children can move around safely, freely and independently between activities set out on the breakfast bar, lounge and hall. They can easily access a range of toys and resources from boxes which the childminder rotates throughout the week. Resources and equipment regularly get checked to ensure there are no broken parts that could cause injury. The childminder has a good awareness of child protection and the new Safeguarding Children procedures through recently attending a training session.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder cares for children part-time and this allows her to also provide support and cover to other local childminders taking holidays or who are off sick. Children's personal progression is consistently promoted as the childminder is aware of their current developmental stage and ensures that the appropriate level of support and equipment remains readily accessible to them. They are confident to attempt new activities and are actively encouraged to develop new skills, ask questions and ask for help when needed. Children respond with enthusiasm to new challenges, they are confident and the childminder provides very good support to them in their learning and play. They develop excellent relationships with the childminder.

Children enthusiastically enjoy a variety of stimulating activities that are appropriate to their ages and are confident to choose and request resources for themselves. Babies happily play with musical and posting toys and older children occupy themselves with the cars developing their own imaginary scenarios of where they are driving to and why. The childminder enjoys undertaking impromptu creative activities with the children to enhance any topic as it arises. For example, whilst talking about insects with children she finds a spider hand puppet for them to play with and then supplies straws, paper, wool, scissors and glue to allow the creation of a collage spider picture. Throughout the week children enjoy a range of physical and social activities away from the home. These include meeting up with other childminders in the village hall to socialise and play together. Also enjoying frequent walks either around the local country parks or Fleet Pond, enjoying the exercise whilst looking at the wildlife and hunting insects.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder promotes inclusion for all and ensures parents are aware of this whilst talking through the service she provides. She demonstrates an awareness of how to support children with physical disabilities and/or learning difficulties. Children respond well to the consistent praise and encouragement, they readily take part in activities and help to tidy up. They demonstrate good manners and behave positively, saying 'Please' and 'Thank you' with only minimal prompting.

Partnership with parents is excellent. Parents benefit from a friendly relationship with the childminder. Before commencing with her they see a certificates folder and she talks through the service she provides. Currently they do not all get to see evidence of the wide range of activities she provides or see any written policies; these are areas of her service she is looking at developing. Parents provide written information about the children's individual requirements. Each day they observe her parents board displaying her certificate, parents poster and information about the food and activities planned. They receive information on how to raise a complaint. The childminder regularly discusses the children's needs and achievements with the parents and provides a written daily diary for parents of babies attending. Parents state that 'they are extremely pleased with the childminder and that she provides a service well beyond what is expected'.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children quickly settle and feel at home supported by the childminder's relaxed childcare approach and access to well-organised play space and resources. They receive good support from the childminder who enjoys their company and displays a good knowledge of their needs and personalities. The childminder is continuing to develop the business-like approach to her childminding; she maintains written records of details promoting the children's welfare, care and learning needs. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous inspection there was a recommendation that the childminder consider further updating her knowledge of current childcare practice through training and since then she has attended a training session on implementing the Birth to three matters framework within her setting.

## **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):

- develop the information available for parents promoting the range of activities the children participate in and the service she provides.

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)