

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	507396
<b>Inspection date</b>	02 July 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 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 1996. She lives with her husband and two children aged 11 and 13 in Merstham, Surrey. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house, plus one bedroom and the bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding four children part-time. The childminder walks to the local shops, parks and schools. She regularly attends a toddler group. The family have a pet cat and two guinea pigs.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean and tidy home. The childminder maintains children's good health through effective hygiene routines, which include hand washing before eating, and after using the toilet. There are tissues available if children need to wipe their nose, and these are placed in the bin after use, to prevent the spread of infection. The childminder's sickness policy excludes

children that are ill, to safeguard the wellbeing of others. Her accident and medication records are well kept, and the childminder has a current first aid certificate, to enable her to handle minor injuries.

Parents provide their own food for children, which the childminder stores in the fridge, to ensure it is kept fresh. She monitors what children eat, to check that they have a healthy, nutritious diet. Drinks of water are always accessible to children in their own colour coded cups, to make sure they are not thirsty. Children's dietary requirements are discussed with parents before minding commences, to ascertain whether they have any food allergies.

Children are provided with extensive opportunities to exercise. They visit local parks and play in the childminder's garden. Children strengthen their muscles on the broad range of equipment provided, which includes a slide and sit and ride toys. Children also visit a variety of groups with the childminder, allowing them to keep fit while socialising with others.

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

The provision is good.

Children move around freely in the childminder's living room, selecting the toys they wish to play with. The childminder plays music quietly in the background, creating a relaxing atmosphere for children to play in. The wide selection of good quality toys and equipment are appropriate to the age and ability of all minded children.

Children's welfare is protected through the broad range of safety measures the childminder has in place. A fireguard is fitted around the gas fire in the living room, and she has devised an evacuation plan to use in the event of an emergency. The childminder uses safety gates to prevent children from having unsupervised access to the stairs. However, there are some wires that are accessible to children in the bedroom they sleep in, which impacts on their wellbeing.

Children are effectively protected from harm, as the childminder is aware of the signs of abuse and has written a child protection statement for parents. She has recently attended further training in child protection. If she has any worries about children in her care, she will record them and seek advice. When necessary, she will report her concerns to the appropriate authority.

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

The provision is good.

Children are confident to ask the childminder for assistance in their play, as she is friendly and approachable. She participates in children's activities, modelling how the toys can be used, to extend their play. For example, the childminder pretended to feed one of the dolls that was sitting in a highchair, which enabled a child to take over and perform this task unaided. She talks to children about things they do at home, such as visits to the swimming pool with friends, developing their vocabulary and conversational skills.

Children cooperate well with each other, as the childminder encourages them to share the toys. She develops their ability to distinguish different colours and shapes, as she questions them about the pieces they place in the shape sorter. The stimulating play opportunities offered by the childminder enable children to be creative, and use their imagination. For example, she involves them in a variety of art and craft activities, and provides dressing-up clothes to enliven children's role play.

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

The provision is good.

Children are all treated with equal concern by the childminder. She ensures that they are included in all activities, and tries to make children feel valued. There are a variety of resources to promote children's understanding of culture, gender and disability. If caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities, the childminder will adapt tasks to meet their needs, and make sure that she gives them individual attention.

The childminder encourages parents to exchange information with her at the beginning and end of the day. She makes them aware of the important events of their child's day during these discussions, and completes daily diaries for the parents of very young children. Parents know that they can contact the childminder at any time, if there is anything else they wish to discuss. There is an effective written complaints procedure, to ensure that parents know how any concerns raised will be handled by the childminder.

Children generally behave well, as the childminder is very positive with them, and reminds them to be considerate towards each other. Good behaviour is promoted by praise. The childminder varies the behaviour management strategies she uses, depending on the age of the child. She distracts younger children, and reasons with older ones, explaining why their behaviour is unacceptable.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's safety is assured when visitors are present, as the childminder remains with them at all times. She regularly updates her knowledge to enable her to enhance the care she provides for children. Her attendance register is well completed, and she stores her records securely to maintain confidentiality. Her records are shared with a child's parents on request. Although the childminder discusses children's needs with parents when minding commences, she does not always record these, to enable her to check that she is fully meeting their individual requirements. The childminder has a folder to show new parents, to make them aware of how she organises her practice. This contains details about her family, her qualifications and insurance. 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 ensure children are safe from potential hazards whilst playing in the garden, and that good hygiene practices are in place regarding hand washing. The childminder has repaired her fence panel to ensure the garden is secure, to safeguard children's welfare. Each child now has their own towel to dry their hands on in the bathroom, to avoid the risk of cross-contamination.

## **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 that all wires are inaccessible to children in the bedroom where they sleep
- ensure that children's records contain details of their individual needs.

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)