

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY341080
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 September 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 2007. She lives with her husband and three children aged 11, seven and five years in the Durrington area of Worthing. The whole 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five, both of whom attend on a part time basis and two children over five years after school. The childminder walks to local schools and the local toddler group. The family have one cat, a hamster and some fish.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about leading a healthy lifestyle and have many opportunities to enjoy physical activities, both in the fresh air and indoors. They are supervised and supported as they try out their developing physical skills both indoors and out, which encourages their growing independence and confidence and helps build their strength. Regular local outings are enjoyed

by children which also contribute to their good health. Children and babies are responded to with affection which supports their emotional well-being and contributes to their physical well-being.

Food is provided by the parents so reflects their own tastes and is stored carefully by the childminder to keep it in good condition until served. The children each have their own cups which are always available for them to drink from when they are thirsty, whilst babies are kept hydrated by frequently being offered a drink.

Children learn the importance of personal hygiene and self-care skills through the daily routines. For example, they know to wash their hands before meals and after visiting the toilet so they do not spread germs, which the childminder explains may give them an upset tummy. The childminder's general hygiene procedures protect children from the spread of infection, such as keeping the cat food off the floor and expecting parents to keep children home when they are unwell. If the children become ill during the day, the childminder will care for them sensitively until they go home.

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

The provision is good.

Children are suitably protected because the childminder understands her role in safeguarding children. Effective procedures advise parents of her responsibility and the childminder knows how to record and refer any concerns. This ensures the childminder acts in the best interest to safeguard the welfare of the children in her care.

Children are well cared for in a comfortable environment where most safety issues have been addressed such as ensuring children cannot climb the banister on the landing. However, although there is a smoke alarm on the ground floor, another has not been fitted on the first floor to warn of a fire starting and the front door can be opened from inside by children. This allows them to leave or admit uninvited visitors. Children learn how to keep themselves safe through sensible guidance such as not jumping indoors. Children are closely supervised on outings, they are strapped securely into the buggy, or wear wrist straps as they walk along and children take it in turns to say when the road is clear to cross safely.

Children enjoy playing with a wide and stimulating range of toys and resources which are regularly checked and cleaned to ensure they continue to play safely. The storage of the resources allows children to choose for themselves what they play with, developing their independence and self-confidence.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of interesting activities which are planned to provide challenge and stimulation appropriate for their individual stage of development. For example, babies are encouraged to move forward as the childminder places interesting toys just out of their reach, encouraging them to begin crawling. The childminder provides appropriate support as the children explore their environment and resources which encourages them to investigate and helps them become more confident and skilful. Children are able to learn through repetition and making connections which develops a sense of achievement and competence.

Babies and young children benefit from being together. They learn to communicate as the childminder echoes the children's sounds and words, effectively responding to what they show they are interested in. She spends a lot of time talking and playing with them, therefore they make good progress in all areas of development. Learning opportunities are extended for children through frequent outings and visits to local groups. They learn to become part of a group and develop their social skills whilst enjoying a wider range of activities.

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

The provision is good.

Regular, effective communication with parents develops strong partnerships with the childminder. Information is shared between them that ensure children's needs are effectively met and that they are treated as individuals, which makes them feel valued. For example, the childminder understands and respects parents' wishes regarding children's care and routines. This helps to develop a secure and trusting three-way relationship through which children develop a sense of identity and feel they belong.

Children settle happily into the welcoming environment and learn to make choices as they select their own activities from an accessible range of equipment. However, limited resources are available to children that reflect the wider world, so their awareness of diversity and the needs of others is not promoted. They do develop a sense of where they belong in the world through the regular local outings.

Children behave well with the childminder as she manages them consistently. She provides clear guidelines on sharing and taking turns so all children have the same opportunities and develop good relationships and friendships. The childminder constantly reinforces their good behaviour with praise and encouragement. Children are able to grow in confidence and develop self esteem as they learn about co-operation with others.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has created a welcoming and homely environment so that children enjoy their time in a well organised home with good quality resources and sufficient space to meet their needs. She makes sure that children get enough attention to help them feel secure and confident. They have plenty of opportunities to make their own choices or initiate their own play. The childminder has a sound knowledge of how to provide appropriate care and have due regard for the children's welfare and safety. Although some improvement is required in the home to ensure children remain safe at all times.

The childminder is well organised and maintains an efficient record keeping system which is confidentially stored and she clearly displays her certificate of registration. The childminder has knowledge and understanding of the recent changes to regulations relating to complaints and has prepared a log which includes the required details. She has a clear understanding of the requirements of her registration, thus promoting the children's welfare and learning. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

Not applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration 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 safety precautions regarding fire and security are in place
- improve range of resources and activities to provide children with a positive view of diversity

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)