



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	138057
<b>Inspection date</b>	02 September 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	John Early

<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 registered in 1989 and is currently caring for 4 children aged 9, 7, 3 and 2 years.

The childminder lives with her husband and 2 adult sons in a house in Colliers Wood. Shops and parks are within walking distance and all areas of the property, except for the childminder's bedroom and the garden, are used for childminding.

The family has goldfish.

The childminder likes to take the children to the local shops, childminder drop-in group, that she helps run, local places of interest, and trips to the coast.

She is a member of the National Childminders Association and is currently a member of the Merton Childminding Network.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

The childminder cares for the children in a clean and well-organised home and teaches them good hygiene practices, such as washing hands before snacks and after using the toilet. The childminder's own hygienic practices are beneficial for the children. Furthermore, she ensures that the house is kept clean, especially the kitchen when she is preparing food.

The childminder plans well the snacks and meals she prepares in order to ensure that the children's dietary needs are constantly met.

The childminder implements systems for giving and recording medication, providing first aid and sharing related information with parents. Such practice benefits the children.

The children participate in various activities. They visit the park and the local Play Centre and walk to the shops and to the childminders drop-in centre. Such activities contribute to their good health and well-being.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder carries out assessments to reduce hazards. In this way the children are able to move freely around the house. They choose activities independently from a wide range of good quality toys and playing materials, which are suitable for their age and stage of development.

The childminder gives high priority to maintaining the children's safety by supervising them at all times. She ensures that the children are safe on outings. The risk of outdoor accidents, therefore, is reduced.

The childminder has all the necessary parental documentation allowing her to take the children out.

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

The provision is good.

The children are confident and make themselves at home within the setting. They

relate well to the childminder because she spends time talking to them and is interested in what they do. She also encourages them to try things for themselves. The children participate in various activities. They choose toys, games and playing materials independently. This contributes to their enjoyment and learning.

The children also relate well to each other. They share toys and learn to cooperate through play. They use the dolls, the buggy and other materials to make a home corner, for example.

The children get more opportunities to play through outings to local parks, to the childminders drop-in group, to the countryside and to the seaside.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder values the children, and meets their individual needs by spending time getting to know them well. She works closely with parents to ensure that the children receive consistent care.

The children behave well and understand the importance of house rules, such as not spoiling each other's games or play. They learn to cooperate, help and support each other through imaginative play.

The children have the opportunity to increase their awareness of diversity through a range of toys, playing materials and books. They achieve this also through talking to each other about their backgrounds.

The children learn about the wider community by visiting places of interest such as local shops, parks and a children's play centre.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are comfortable in the well-organised home. The environment is set out to make the most of the available space in order to maximise the children's play opportunities. This enables them to play freely and safely, thus gaining confidence and independence.

The childminder keeps all the required records and documents that contribute to the children's health, safety and well-being. She regularly shares information with parents, so that they are aware of the care she provides.

Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the children for whom she provides care.

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

All actions have been completed.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints since the last inspection.

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 knowledge and understanding of the needs of children under 3 years for example, through the Birth to Three Framework.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)