

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY347730
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 September 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Sandra Laura Bates
<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 is registered to care for four children at any one time and currently looks after five children of whom only one attends on a full time basis.

The childminder lives with her husband and their two children, one of whom is aged under five years and one over eight years, in a terraced house situated in a mainly residential road in Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex. The property is close to local amenities and is within a short walk of the village centre and the river. The minding is generally confined to the ground floor of the home, where there are washing and toileting facilities, with access to an upstairs bedroom for sleeping children. There are further washing and toileting facilities on the first floor. There is a securely enclosed rear garden for outdoor play. The family have a pet Jack Russell dog and two caged rabbits.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very clean and well maintained environment. Children begin to learn how to manage their own personal hygiene needs as they are encouraged to wash their hands before eating or after handling the family pets for instance. The childminder manages the hygiene needs of the youngest children in an appropriate manner, using wipes to clean their hands at meal or snack times and ensuring that nappies are changed regularly. She is scrupulous about ensuring that children do not come into contact with any fouling by the family dog, by monitoring carefully and cleaning up whenever it is necessary. Children are protected from cross infection due to the childminder's clear policy for the management and exclusion, where necessary, of sick children.

Children enjoy the benefits of a varied and nutritious range of healthy eating options provided by the childminder. The childminder plans weekly menus and shares these with parents. She records what children eat in their individual daily diaries or record sheets so that parents are very well informed. Children sit together to enjoy a snack of fresh fruit and a drink for example. Young children are safely seated and securely restrained in suitable high chairs at these times.

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

The provision is good.

Children play and rest in very safe and secure surroundings. The home is very comfortable and welcoming to children and adults with ample play space both indoors and outside. The childminder identifies all potential hazards and takes appropriate steps to reduce risks to children. She puts in place a range of relevant safety features to protect children in most situations, although some very minor 'fail safe' arrangements have been overlooked. She ensures that children access safe and suitable resources taking careful account of their age and stage of development. Resources are chosen with care to ensure that children are able to develop their understanding of a number of early learning concepts.

Children benefit from the childminder's secure understanding of child protection issues which helps to ensure their welfare. The childminder knows the forms that abuse may take and is clear about the steps to take if she has any concerns. She has put in place a written policy in this respect which is shared with parents to ensure that they are clear about her role and responsibilities towards the minded children.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a happy and fulfilling experience in the childminder's care. The childminder plans effectively to ensure that children have interesting and varied activities. She demonstrates a caring and affectionate demeanour towards the children to which they respond very well. They come to her confidently for a comforting cuddle if they are sleepy or upset for instance.

Children play together well. They show imagination as they role play a picnic using the play food, and involve the adults in their play. Children enjoy sitting with the childminder to share a story. They choose freely from the accessibly set out resources and are happy to help to tidy away when asked. The childminder sorts the resources into topic boxes and is careful to ensure

that items are put away in the relevant boxes so that she can be confident that she is offering appropriate items to the varying age groups minded. She monitors the occasional TV programmes that the children watch to ensure that they are relevant to their age or stage of development.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder caters very effectively for children's individual needs and ensures that the care is tailored to their age and stage of development. Children begin to develop positive attitudes towards social diversity and the wider world through the use of resources, activities and everyday situations. The childminder uses a calendar of the festivals and celebrations of a variety of cultures and traditions to inform her activity planning. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are likely to be well supported due to the childminder's commitment to seeking any necessary information to enable her to provide an appropriate service for every child.

Children behave well. The childminder has a calm and sensitive approach and the children generally appear to reflect the positive prevailing atmosphere in the household.

The childminder provides parents with very comprehensive and well presented initial information about the setting and they sign to indicate their understanding of the policies and procedures contained in the welcome pack. The childminder monitors children's achievements and feeds back to parents. Individual diaries for each child are completed in detail and go to and from home with the children. She plans a seasonal newsletter to further inform parents.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder is extremely well organised. She has a very businesslike attitude towards her service and this is reflected in the excellent manner in which she presents her supporting information material and documentation. The childminder plans very effectively to ensure that children have a full and varied experience and so that she is well prepared and organised for each day. She is fully committed to enhancing her practice through on-going training and recognises the value added for children by being up to date with current good practice.

The childminder has in place all the regulatory documentation which is maintained in a very efficient manner. She provides a wide range of further supporting documents such as daily diaries and record sheets for each child, and a detailed permission leaflet covering a range of possible eventualities such as emergency medical treatment, outings and dental hygiene for example.

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):

- continue to monitor the range of safety features fitted to ensure that they allow for unexpected situations

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)