

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	403838
<b>Inspection date</b>	01 October 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Elizabeth Anne Coffey

<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 to care for children since 2001. She lives with her husband and two children who are eleven and seven years of age. They live in a three bed roomed house in a residential area of South Norwood, in the London borough of Croydon. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes. Older children may play upstairs and the first floor is also used for sleep and rest purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding six children on a part-time basis.

The childminder holds an NVQ level 3 qualification and is a member of the Croydon Childminding Network.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of activities which contribute to their good health. They are learning to develop good control of their bodies through activities both in the home and outside. Children enjoy dancing, mini sports days and playing on the trampoline in the garden. They enjoy regular trips to parks and playgrounds where they can run about and exercise and develop their co-ordination and balance as they use the play equipment.

Babies and young children are able to sleep comfortably at times that match their daily routine. Children are cared for in a warm, clean home. Children learn good self care and personal hygiene awareness, for example, by the childminder ensuring that hand washing facilities are adapted to meet the needs of different aged children.

Children enjoy a healthy, nutritious diet and menus are adapted to meet individual dietary needs. The childminder encourages the children to develop good eating habits, for example eating fresh fruit and vegetables. Children take part in regular cooking activities such as making pizzas which they enjoy eating as part of their meals. Children enjoy eating in a variety of settings, for example a picnic tea on the floor or a cooked meal seated at the dining room table. A highchair and low table and chairs are available which enables babies and younger children to fully participate in mealtimes.

The childminder has appropriate record keeping systems in place for the recording of accidents and medication. A policy regarding sick children is available and appropriate parental consents are obtained, for example regarding the administration of medication. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate. A full first aid kit is held with a smaller emergency kit available for trips out of the home.

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

The provision is good.

Children learn about keeping safe both in the home and as they travel to and from school and nursery. Children practise crossing the road safely and learn to look and listen carefully for oncoming traffic. Clear house rules are in place that promote children's safety, for example specific rules that relate to children playing in different areas of the home are clearly displayed and understood by the children.

Children are cared for in a well maintained home, where the childminder has taken appropriate action to reduce risks. For example, cleaning materials and sharp utensils are stored out of children's reach and children's access to the kitchen is prevented by use of a stair gate. Children develop a good understanding of fire safety as they regularly practise fire drills and their awareness is further heightened as they take part in fun activities such as word searches and quizzes that help to promote fire safety.

Children benefit from close adult supervision, as they independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The childminder takes care to ensure children play with toys that are suitable for their age and stage of development, for example providing more complicated puzzles and board games for children as they get older.

Children are protected from harm by the childminder who has a sound knowledge of child protection and understands her responsibilities in following correct procedures in the event of a concern. A written child protection policy is held and shared with parents.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a warm interactive relationship with the childminder. They enjoy playing with the wide range of toys and play materials in the home and garden. Children are provided with well planned imaginative activities that stimulate and interest them. They enjoy art and craft activities and examples of children's art work adorn the walls. Resources for writing and a wide selection of books are readily available to the children.

The childminder has a sound understanding of the Birth to three matters framework and the Foundation Stage guidance and plans activities in line with this. She records observations on children's progress and plans activities based on individual children's learning needs which are shared with parents.

Children are able to play freely and make independent choices about what they want to play with. They readily come to the childminder's home and enjoy their time there. Children's learning and social skills are promoted through frequent visits to toddler groups where they can play with their peers. During school holidays the childminder tries to provide a flexible service where children can also attend local sports activities such as football camps as well as spending time with her.

Children are happy and settled. They benefit from a daily routine that accommodates their individual sleep and feeding patterns. New children are helped to settle in because the childminder is calm and patient in her approach. She encourages the child to get to know her and her family and to build relationships with other minded children. The childminder plans her day well to balance the needs of her own and minded children and to accommodate children's school runs.

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

The provision is good.

Children develop their understanding of the local community through regular outings outside of the home. The childminder provides a good range of resources to promote a positive view of the wider world, including dolls of different colours and books that reflect multicultural society. They participate in activities such as Black History Month where all the children contribute to a poster depicting their own individual dream. Cooking activities such as making patties further helps to increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of different lifestyles.

Although the childminder does not have direct experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities she demonstrates an awareness and understanding of the importance of identifying and meeting the individual needs of all children. She is aware of the normal developmental milestones of children and would seek appropriate advice and support where necessary. She is happy to work with other agencies, such as speech and language therapists, and recognises the importance of ensuring that all children are given any additional support available in order to promote their development.

A written behaviour management policy and lists of house rules relating to different areas of the home are displayed for children and parents to see. The childminder reinforces positive behaviour through good use of praise and acknowledgement. The childminder is calm and positive in her dealings with the children, encouraging them to share, take turns and treat each other and the resources with respect.

Parents' views are respected and they are kept very well informed about how their child has been during the day. Contact books are kept on babies and preschool aged children that record day to day events such as sleep, toileting and outings. Parents newsletters are produced that inform parents of any changes and include articles of general interest. The childminder provides a flexible service to meet the varying childcare needs of different families. Clear, well-written policies and procedures are laid out in a portfolio which is shared with parents. This helps to promote positive working relationships and identifies the expectations of all parties.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from well organised play areas, allowing time for quiet and messy play. They enjoy an environment where they receive appropriate adult support from the childminder to help them feel secure and confident. Children's care is enhanced by effective and efficient organisation. The childminder organises her daily routine around the children's needs. The day is well planned to accommodate journeys to and from school and to allow the children adequate time to rest, play and eat.

The childminder is suitably qualified and experienced. She holds an appropriate first aid certificate. A notice board in the lounge is used to display menus and activity plans. Relevant certificates and information for parents are displayed in the entrance hall. A written portfolio gives parents information about the childminder's background and demonstrates her understanding of the National Standards.

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of her role and responsibilities as a registered childminder. There are appropriate documentation and record keeping systems in place to meet current regulations. However, where a child attends on a very occasional basis this has not been recorded. This compromises children's safety and welfare. The childminder is keen to address this concern with immediate effect. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to: ensure the safety of children using the garden; maintain a record of children's attendance; improve the planning of activities and ensure a valid first aid certificate is held.

The garden is now safe and suitable for children's use. Activities are planned in line with children's individual learning goals and interests. A record of children's daily hours of attendance is maintained. A valid first aid certificate is held. These improvements benefit the safety, welfare and learning opportunities of the children.

## **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 full records are maintained on children who attend on an occasional basis

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)