

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY241339
<b>Inspection date</b>	20 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Catherine Hill
<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 2003. She lives with her two children, aged 15 and 12 years, in Guildford, Surrey. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and toilet facilities are situated on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have two guinea pigs. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. She is currently minding three children under five years and one child over five before and after school. The childminder walks and drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends local childminding groups and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children keep healthy as they follow good hygiene practice and have regular opportunities for exercise and fresh air. They play in a clean home environment and wash their hands, as appropriate. A picture and word sign in the toilet is a gentle reminder to children about washing their hands and paper towels are used by children which minimizes the risk of the spread of

infection. Children thoroughly enjoy outside play in the garden where they have access to a variety of wheeled toys to aid their physical development. They develop their coordination skills as they furiously peddle a tricycle around the perimeter of the childminder's lawn. They carefully and safely negotiate high steps up to the playhouse. The childminder ensures children are dressed warmly for outside play and takes children out to children's play areas and to gym sessions to provide a variety of experiences where they can reinforce and develop their physical skills. Parents supply their children's food and the childminder has fruit available for snacks. The childminder has completed food hygiene awareness training and stores children's food appropriately. Children receive appropriate care if they have an accident as the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. Accident and medication records are maintained with all relevant detail. The childminder has written policies to support her practice in promoting children's good health, such as a sickness policy.

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

The provision is good.

Children are totally relaxed and play very happily in the warm, welcoming and child friendly minding environment the childminder has established. Children develop a sense of belonging and ownership of the environment as their artwork is displayed alongside educational posters which provides a stimulating surround for play and learning. They are able to access a good range of resources freely and independently. Resources are available which promote learning in all skill areas and which are suitable for children's age and stage of development. For example, young children use large junky chalks to mark make on the chalkboard. Children keep safe at the childminder's as she is vigilant to potential hazards and has minimized risks. Sponge door stops, for example, are used to prevent children closing doors and trapping their fingers and the childminder ensures toys are not spread across the floor presenting a trip hazard. Children learn how to keep themselves safe through discussion with the childminder. Her emergency evacuation plan is displayed and children understand where to exit in an emergency. Children's welfare is well protected as the childminder understands her role and responsibilities with regard to child protection. She has a written policy to support her practice and has attended recent training to refresh and update knowledge gained from her original training.

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

The provision is good.

Children have great fun at the childminder's and spend their time purposefully, learning through well supported play. They dress up as racing drivers and enthusiastically and excitedly race round the garden. They play cooperatively together and take turns to operate the chequered flag signalling the start and end of a race. They play with a toy crane and learn through investigation how to use the buttons to make the crane move. The childminder sensitively supports play and challenges children to see how heavy they could make the load for the crane to lift. Children concentrate well as they assemble, with the childminder's support, a toy digger. They carefully turn the screwdriver to help put the wheels on and the childminder encourages them to think about how many wheels they will need. Children correctly reply four and focus on joining all parts until they have achieved in making the digger. They delight in imaginary play and giggle and laugh as they dress up in, for example a fairy costume, and pretend to make things vanish with their magic wand and the word 'abracadabra'. They are developing a good understanding of letter/sound links and blends through play with an interactive word toy. They recognize the letters in their name and smile as the 'Word Whammer' says it out loud after they have put the letters in the correct order and pressed the appropriate buttons. They

see a letter 'm' and remark that it is (making the sound) 'm for mummy'. Children engross themselves completing a car designing game on the computer, skilfully operating the mouse to complete the game. The childminder supervises play and ensures children have a varied and interesting range of play experiences to help develop their learning. Children develop an awareness of the wider world as they are taken out on outings, for example, to the cinema, farm, to go swimming and for picnics. The childminder has attended training with regard to the Birth to three matters framework and understands how to support children's learning and development.

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

The provision is good.

Children are confident and sociable and respond very well to the childminder who is kind and caring and who treats them all with equal concern. They have very good self-esteem as they receive praise and encouragement as they play. They develop an understanding of fair play as they patiently wait their turn to use the chequered flag during play. They amicably share resources and have excellent relationships with the childminder and each other. The childminder ensures they all have equal opportunity of access to resources and activities and supports her practice with a written equal opportunities and special needs policy. Children behave well as they receive high levels of support from the childminder who acts as a positive role model with regard to good manners. Detailed information is shared with parents about the childminder's practice. Information is displayed within the play area and written policies and procedures are shared with parents, although the complaints procedure does not fully reflect the 2005 amendments to the National Standards relating to the procedures for dealing with parental concerns. Parents also share good detailed information about any particular needs their child may have which allows the childminder to support children in a consistent manner to that of the parents. Excellent detailed information about children's minded day is shared via a daily diary. Testimonials on file from parents confirm they are happy with the childminder's practice and the care provided for their children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder successfully organises her practice to ensure children have good opportunities to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve and make a positive contribution. Children have very good opportunities to develop their skills through access to a wide range of resources and activities both inside and outside the home. The childminder is proactive in attending training to continually further her knowledge and skills in order to further improve her already good practice. She maintains a range of documentation to support her practice, with most containing good detail. Attendance records record children's arrival and departure times, with some countersigned by parents as confirmation that the details are correct. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

Since her last inspection the childminder has addressed recommendations made which related to documentation and safety. Children's full names are included within attendance records and a written complaints statement is in place and shared with parents. The childminder has also ensured the lock on the toilet has been made safe to children.

## **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):

- improve documentation by ensuring parents consistently sign attendance records as confirmation of entries and by further developing the written complaints statement to reflect changes outlined in the 2005 addendum to the National Standards.

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)