

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 121537           |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 14 November 2007 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Teresa Elkington |
| <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 1993. She lives with her husband and three children aged nine, three and two years in Hersham, Surrey. 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. She is currently minding four children from nought to eight years of age all of whom attend on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group. The family have a dog, two cats, two guinea pigs and gecko. The childminder is a member of a local childminder support group.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from illness and infection, as the childminder maintains a clean and healthy environment. She ensures that children develop an awareness of the importance of adopting good personal care routines from an early age. For example, they independently use

wet wipes for the cleaning of their hands before snack and mealtimes, after using the toilet and when they have had their nappies changed. Clear nappy changing routines and the use of freshly laundered bedding ensures that children are protected from cross contamination. Children are able to enjoy observing and handling the household pets, due the childminder's effective procedures.

The childminder has a valid first aid certificate. However, the first aid box is inadequately stocked to ensure that accidents can be dealt with efficiently. Documentation to support children's health and welfare is generally well maintained, although accident and medication records are not confidential to each child. A clear sickness policy is in place. The childminder shares additional information with parents on the signs and symptoms of infectious illness, helping to ensure sick children are excluded from the setting.

Children have opportunities to rest and sleep according to their needs in quiet comfortable surroundings. They benefit from plenty of fresh air as they make regular trips to the park and soft play areas. Children's physical play is further extended by the use of the garden, where children can use a range of equipment to promote their physical skills. For example, through their use of climbing frames, sit and ride toys and games.

Children's dietary needs are met well. They have access to regular drinks and the childminder provides healthy, nutritious meals and snacks. She is very aware of children's specific dietary requirements and is vigilant in catering for children with food allergies, ensuring that all food is checked to meet children's personal needs.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a secure, welcoming and child friendly environment. They are appropriately protected from harm as the childminder uses risk assessments and well implemented policies and procedures to ensure that children are fully safeguarded. Good procedures are in place to protect children whilst on outings and when travelling in the car. Age appropriate car seats are fitted and equipment such as buggies is of good quality, to ensure children are protected. Children follow simple guidelines to ensure that they are aware of the dangers of the road and what they must do to secure their safety.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious and well organised environment which allows them to move around freely and safely. Children have full and open access to their environment and are encouraged and supported by the childminder to access all spaces and equipment that is available to them. They freely choose from an excellent range of resources which are stored to encourage independence and freedom of choice from an early age. Children's resources are suitable for their ages and stages of development and are well maintained to ensure that they are safe and ready for children to use. The childminder rotates toys to ensure that children benefit from a variety of play experiences.

Children are well protected from harm as the childminder has knowledge of child protection issues and has updated her training to ensure she is totally familiar with relevant procedures. This ensures that children are fully protected whilst in the childminder's care and the childminder is able to implement necessary procedures, should she have any concerns.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive in the care of the childminder who provides a stimulating and child friendly environment. They are motivated and enthusiastically participate in and enjoy the well planned activities and experiences offered to them. The children receive excellent support and praise which develops their confidence and self esteem. The childminder uses her wealth of experience to plan an extensive range of opportunities and activities, which are organised to ensure that developmental needs are fully met. Children benefit from the childminder's highly skilled ability to balance her time interacting with children effectively and at appropriate moments to ensure that they can independently make their own decisions in developing new skills. For example, as they pull themselves up by using furniture, with the childminder being vigilant and on hand to give support if required.

Story times provide excellent opportunities for children to develop their communication and early language skills. The childminder constantly talks to children, during their play and during their personal care routines. This encourages children to develop their use of gestures and sounds from an early age. Children benefit from the childminder's excellent understanding of the Birth to three framework, which successfully promotes children's individual development. The childminder uses effective systems to observe, monitor and record children's achievements in their daily journals.

Access to an excellent and extensive range of resources and the good interaction from the childminder sustains children's interest and enables them to successfully develop their play. During the inspection children were highly motivated and actively engrossed in imaginary play as they use a variety of equipment, toys and different areas of the available space to play. Children are offered an extensive range of different play experiences and activities on a regular basis which enables them to learn new skills and consolidate existing ones. For example, children attend a variety of child-centred settings away from the childminding premises. These encourage the development of social skills and range of physical skills.

Children form very strong relationships with the childminder and enjoy close interaction, through the close and loving relationships that the childminder adopts. She engages in play with them and enjoys their company, which develops the children's high levels of confidence and self-esteem. They feel valued as members of the childminder's family, enabling them to be extremely relaxed, happy and secure in the childminder's care.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals and benefit from the childminder knowing them well and responding to their individual needs. Children's awareness of the wider world is promoted through the use of resources, which helps them to develop a positive attitude towards diversity. The childminder's sound understanding of equality of opportunity is evident throughout her practice and reflected in her written policies. This ensures all children are made welcome and are fully included in the life of the setting.

The childminder adopts a very calm, competent approach, where children learn to share and co-operate together through explanation and from the good role model set by the childminder. Appropriate behaviour management strategies are employed, according to the ages and stage of development of the children, which helps them to understand right from wrong. The

childminder uses positive recognition through continual praise and encouragement which helps children feel settled and encourages good behaviour.

The children benefit from the good relationships the childminder has with their parents. The childminder recognises the importance of working in partnership with parents and has established friendly and positive relationships with them to ensure that children's individual care needs are recognised, discussed and planned for. Parents receive comprehensive written information about the provision and are kept fully informed about their children's care needs and the activities that they enjoy.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care, learning and play is enhanced by the childminder's professional approach and good organisation skills. Space is used appropriately and the day is well organised to ensure that all children's individual needs are met. The childminder uses effective and well implemented policies and procedures to ensure children are well protected and cared for. All of the legally required records and documentation are in place. However, the recording of accidents and administration of medication does not respect the confidentiality of children. The certificate of registration and other relevant information is displayed and made available to parents, in order to keep them fully informed about the service she provides for the children.

The childminder has a full understanding of her role and responsibilities as a childminder and adheres to the National Standards. She is committed to updating her knowledge to build on her good practice which ensures that she maintains a high regard for the well-being of all children and their development in their early years.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection two recommendations were raised; ensure that parents are aware of the procedure for contacting Ofsted and request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment

The provider has taken positive actions to address both of these issues; a clear procedure is now in place detailing information as to how to contact Ofsted. Consent forms which parents have signed in order for the childminder to seek emergency medical advice or treatment have been completed. These measures ensure that children's welfare is fully protected.

### **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):

- ensure that a suitably stocked first aid box is in place
- improve the documentation for recording accidents and medications administered to ensure confidentiality.

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)