

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	160478
<b>Inspection date</b>	18 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Catherine Greenwood

<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 1998. She is registered to provide care for a maximum of five children at any one time, and is currently caring for four children under eight years on a part time basis. She also currently looks after one child over eight years.

She lives with her husband and three children aged 16 and 13 years and four years in a house in the village of Mychett, in Surrey. The whole of the ground floor is used for minding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder can take and collect children from local schools. She attends the local childminder/toddler group and is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local childminder group. The family have two pet rabbits.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

The childminder currently provides all food. Younger children are given snack lunches, which always include raw vegetables and fruit. After school, older children have a biscuit, fruit and a drink. Children's individual dietary needs are well known and clearly recorded. They develop a liking for healthy food, because in consultation with parents, the childminder encourages children to try a small amount of everything she cooks.

Children are protected from the risk of cross infection. For example, they have their own drinking cups and towels, and the childminder makes good use of disposable gloves and antibacterial wipes for nappy changing, and if children are ill. There are systems in place to record details of accidents and medication administration, and the childminder holds a current first aid certificate.

Younger children learn to use the slide, bounce on the small trampoline, and ride wheeled toys during weekly visits to toddler groups. Children's daily contact books show evidence that with the childminders support, younger children develop confidence with climbing wooden ladders attached to the slide. In addition, the childminder provides resources at home that help children develop their hand and eye co-ordination such as threading beads. Older children walk to and from school every day, and have regular opportunities to use large playground equipment to develop their physical skills. Consequently, they are confident with using these resources.

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

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe on outings because the childminder talks to them about crossing the road and the importance of staying on the pavement. She uses reins for younger children and appropriate safety seating and belts used when children are transported in the childminders car.

In the childminders home, children are kept secure because there is safety gate at the end of the kitchen which prevents children having access to the front door and the stairs. Children learn about what to do in the event of a fire, because they take part in regular evacuation practices, and older children who attend after school are informed about fire procedures.

The childminder has taken action to make the premises safe and most areas of her home do not present any risks to children's safety. All play equipment is well maintained and regularly checked. However, the gate leading to the rear section of the garden is broken and does not lock. In addition, there are low level glass windows in the side of the garage which backs onto the garden. Therefore children are exposed to potential hazards when they are using the garden.

Children's welfare is fully safeguarded because the childminder has an excellent understanding of the procedures to follow if she is concerned about a child. She has attended additional child protection training, there are written procedures in place which are shared with parents, and all current child protection documentation is available.

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

The provision is good.

Children are kept well occupied. This is evident as younger children show great interest in using the play equipment, because the childminder makes favourite toys easily accessible and changes them when children get bored. Children persist at completing puzzles and playing games such as 'flip the frog', because she sits on the floor and offers support and help. She says that older children really like the arts and crafts activities, such as painting, drawing, sticking, cutting and printing. On special occasions such as birthdays, they make things for members of their family.

Children enjoy weekly cooking activities where they make cakes, biscuits, chop vegetables, grate cheese and help to peel some vegetables. Older children have sufficient challenge and feel a sense of achievement, because the childminder provides resources that are suitable for their age, such as tapestry sets and sewing activities. A range of board games are kept upstairs which the children know they can ask for, and some resources are on shelves in the playroom such as magnets, tap a shape, and sound lotto. The childminder says children like listening to music and enjoy handling and feeding the pet rabbits.

Children are provided with a wide range of experiences such as woodland walks, visits to miniature animal farm parks which include train rides and animal feeding sessions, walks to the canal to feed the ducks and see the boats, outings to local parks with playgrounds, and to play areas with large sand pits. Children benefit from going to toddler groups every week where they take part in arts and crafts, and music activities. Consequently, children develop their social skills and learn to take part in large and small group activities.

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

The provision is good.

Children are extremely happy, secure and content in the childminder's home, because the childminder is attentive to their individual needs. This is evident as they feel confident to sit on her lap, and enjoy being near to her whilst they are playing. The childminder has a good knowledge of younger children's progress, for example, she says they are beginning to use a few words and can communicate in other ways by showing her what they want. Young children show great enthusiasm when playing with the toys and know to tidy them away before they take out something new.

Children are very well behaved because the childminder provides a good role model, frequently gives children praise, and feels that it is important that they do not hear her raising her voice. Children are set clear boundaries and know the rules, such as not jumping on the furniture, being kind to each other, and treating others with respect. The childminder ensures children learn right from wrong by talking about any issues, and feels it is important to listen to what children have to say. She informs parents of all behaviour, where children cannot hear, which means they do not have to re-live negative experiences.

The childminder has a good open relationship with parents where information is shared about children's individual needs and progress. Children see a positive relationship between the childminder and their parents and therefore feel comfortable to talk with the childminder in the same way. Individual Contact books give parents detailed information about children's activities and what they have done during the day.

Children develop a positive view about differences because the childminder has a good range of accessible resources in the playroom, which reflect positive images of different cultures and beliefs. All children are fully included in activities. The childminder is not currently caring for children with learning difficulties and/ or disabilities. However, if she was concerned about a child's development she would approach parents and suggest referral to other agencies.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder plans her day and is well organised. All rooms are kept clean and prepared before children arrive. Consequently, the environment is comfortable and welcoming. Children have plenty of space to move around, and benefit from using a playroom which has lots of age appropriate accessible resources. The playroom is set up to maximise opportunities for children to choose their own resources. They do creative activities at a large table in the kitchen, and clip on seats are used so that younger children are included.

The childminder attends lots of additional training such as Equal opportunities, Child protection, and Behaviour management, and says she has learnt so much. As a result, documentation has become more organised, and all written policies and procedures have been reviewed, updated and shared with parents. This means that the childminder is committed to evaluating and improving the quality of care she provides for children. Documentation is well organised and most record keeping systems are in place, although there is no system to record any complaints. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection, the childminder agreed to extend resources to reflect positive images of diversity. She has bought some books, and puzzles that reflect disability. Other resources such as dolls, dressing up clothes and books that reflect different culture, race and religion are also available. Therefore, opportunities for children to learn about differences have been improved.

### **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. 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 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 all glass windows in the garden are made safe or inaccessible to children, and that the gate to the rear section of the garden is in good repair and kept locked
- devise a system to record any complaints

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)