

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	160706
<b>Inspection date</b>	04 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Carol Newman

<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 2001. She lives with her partner and three school aged and adult children in Epsom in Surrey. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding two children who attend on a full time and part time basis.

The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler groups and takes children to the local park, soft play and the playground.

The childminder has a cat and a dog.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children play happily in a clean environment where they learn the importance of good personal hygiene. Children wash their hands after nappy changing and before eating and they dispose of tissues hygienically. The childminder is aware of effective food hygiene practices and the children's equipment is disinfected regularly to protect the children from infection.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and the first aid box is well stocked. Children who are unwell do not attend and the childminder requests written parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment. This ensures the childminder can act in the best interests of all children.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. They enjoy nutritiously balanced meals and snacks, either provided by parents or the childminder according to parental preferences. Children can access a fresh drink at all times and they confidently help themselves.

Children enjoy regular exercise that contributes to their good health and develops their physical skills, such as attending soft play facilities and walking the dog.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious well-organised environment. This allows them to move around and play safely. Carefully selected, well maintained toys ensure children have a good choice of safe and suitable resources. Children have easy access to all resources in the designated playroom and freely choose their activities. Children benefit from their own cots and bedding, located in separate bedrooms, so that they feel secure and develop a sense of ownership, when resting.

The childminder practises the emergency evacuation procedures with the children, on a regular basis. This helps children become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency. Children benefit from some safety measures, for example, a stairgate at the bottom of the stairs, cupboard catches and socket covers. However, the side gate is not sufficiently secure to ensure unwanted visitors cannot gain access.

The childminder has an appropriate understanding of safeguarding children issues and knows what action to take if she has concerns about a child in her care. This ensures she can recognise when a child is in danger and can act in the child's best interest. However, the childminder has not attended training to ensure she is fully aware of current guidance.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy and learn from a varied range of activities that include quiet and active play. For example, children enjoy constructing the 'Happy Street' village, making their food collage, manipulating play dough and pretending to go shopping.

The childminder plans the children's day to include regular outings and art and craft activities such as clay, junk modelling, colouring, painting and cooking.

The childminder builds strong relationships with the children. She becomes fully involved in the children's play and engages in conversation with them to develop their language and communication skills.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder treats children as individuals to ensure children have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and potential. A good range of resources reflect positive images of all aspects of society. This means children learn to acknowledge and accept differences.

The childminder has a lot of experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. This means she is able to adapt activities to ensure all children are included. She willingly discusses any concerns with parents to ensure the children's needs are met.

Behaviour management strategies are appropriate and help children understand right from wrong. Children learn important social skills such as sharing and listening to each other.

The partnership with parents is friendly and supportive. The childminder gives daily feedback to parents about their child's day verbally and through a daily diary. This helps provide children with consistent care between home and the childminding provision.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a suitably organised environment where they receive adult support to help them feel secure and confident. Written policies and procedures guide the childminder in her daily practice. This ensures information is shared with parents. However, policies and procedures have not been revised to ensure they truly reflect the care on offer to the children.

The childminder has not accessed training to develop knowledge of recent guidance, for example, the Birth to three matters framework, to update her understanding of current childcare practices. However, the childminder meets all the children's needs and all mandatory records are in place and well maintained.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure children have access to an expanded range of toys and resources that reflect positive images of culture/ethnicity and disability. The childminder has a good range of resources, such as books, Happy Street, puzzles and dolls to develop the children's understanding of today's wider world.

The childminder also agreed to ensure there is documented agreements with individual parents regarding the seeking of medical advice and emergency treatment. The childminder has requested written parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment and this is now in place for all minded 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 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):

- develop knowledge of recent guidance, for example, the Birth to three matters framework, to update understanding of current childcare practices
- revise policies and procedures to ensure they truly reflect the care on offer to the children
- ensure the security of the premises is sufficient, so that unwanted visitors cannot gain access and children cannot leave the premises unsupervised.

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)