

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	405554
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Sandra Patricia Jeffrey

<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 since 1998. She lives with her husband and their two children aged 11 years and three years. They live in a three bedroom, two story house in a residential area in the London borough of Croydon, within walking distance of schools, parks and shops.

The downstairs of the house is the main area used by the minded children and incorporates a dining room and a living room. The open plan kitchen has restricted access. An upstairs bedroom is available for sleep purposes and the bathroom facilities are also on the first floor. A secure garden is available for outdoor play (section closest to the house only).

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children aged under eight years at any one time, of these not more than two may be under the age of five years. At the time of the inspection there were three children on roll aged under eight years and two children aged over eight years. Two of the younger children were present during the inspection visit.

The family have a pet rabbit that lives in the garden. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association, holds an NVQ level 3 in Early Years Care and Education and is also a member of the local childminding network.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Young children are cared for in a clean and comfortable environment where they are beginning to learn the importance of good personal hygiene. They receive appropriate support to develop their personal care, for example, they are all helped with washing their hands and faces, before and after meals. This helps to reduce the risk of infection.

Children's health is protected because the childminder obtains appropriate consents to give medication and has good systems in place to keep records of health needs and accidents. The childminder can respond promptly to minor accidents or injuries because she has an up to date first aid certificate and has obtained written parental permission in relation to emergency treatment. This safeguards children's health and welfare.

Children enjoy healthy meals and snacks that the childminder provides. The childminder discusses children's dietary needs with the parents when the contracts are being completed, to ensure that she is aware of any allergies or special requirements. She provides the children with a balanced diet and endeavours to make meals appealing to all children in her care, encouraging them to take part in the planning of the weekly menu for example. This helps the children to develop healthy eating habits and supports a healthy way of living.

The children take part in a variety of physical activities, which includes attending the local Sure start and McDonald's soft play areas, where they can enjoy using large play equipment, in a safe environment. The childminder described a good understanding of the benefits of visiting other environments with the minded children to broaden their experiences and to ensure younger children's physical developmental skills are extended. Indoor activities enjoyed in the home setting during the winter months include, hopscotch, mini bowling and making tents. Taken part in daily, physical activity helps to keep the children fit and healthy.

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

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into a warm and secure home environment. They have a very good range of toys and resources that are made easily accessible to them. This helps to make the children feel welcome in the setting and encourages them to make choices and decisions for themselves in their play. They have good space to play and rest within and are kept safe by the effective safety precautions that the childminder has ensured are in place; including suitable fire safety precautions and incorporating regular emergency evacuation practises. This helps children become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency.

The premises, including the garden, are secure and there are good procedures in place to prevent the children from leaving unsupervised. Suitable safety precautions are also in place when out on trips with the children, who are securely strapped into the buggy or their car seats. The childminder ensures that she plans ahead in order to further promote the children's safety, for example, she makes sure she has sufficient petrol for each journey and parks her car in areas that are safe for her to get the children in and out of the car. These precautions promote the safety of the children.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and knows how to proceed if she has concerns about a child in her care, in line with the latest government guidance. The

childminder has attended training in Safeguarding Children (child protection), and has a written policy in line with the Safeguarding Children procedures, this supports children's wellbeing.

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

The provision is good.

Young children are happy and confident in the childminder's home. The childminder ensures she has obtained good knowledge of the children she cares for and has a daily routine, which enables young children to feel secure and comfortable in the setting. Children make themselves at home and have a warm and caring relationship with the childminder. They receive lots of affection from her and they respond well to the attention given to them, indicating that they feel secure and welcome in her home.

The childminder has attended training on the Birth to three matters framework and uses this training to provide a good routine for the younger children, which includes time for rest and quiet activities when needed. The children enjoy a good varied range of educational and fun activities, which are planned in advance and take account of their individual needs and abilities.

Visiting educational farms and growing their own strawberries and carrots for example, also supports the children's understanding of healthy eating. Whilst 'growing' butterflies and looking at themes about the weather and seasons, develops children's knowledge and understanding of the world they live in.

The children can also independently select, from the resources that are made easily accessible to them, including dressing up, role play and play dough, to name a few. A good balance of adult and child initiated activities helps children to make good progress in their learning.

The childminder demonstrated a good understanding of meeting young children's needs and is aware they all have different levels of ability, she takes time to explain how things work and encourages the children's development and understanding of the toys and activities provided, therefore continually extending the children's learning.

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

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the setting and valued as individuals. The childminder finds out about their individual needs before they start and ensures that these needs are respected and met. Children and their families are treated with respect and the children receive good support and encouragement to promote their self-esteem.

Children begin to develop a positive awareness of other races, cultures and abilities through the good selection of resources and activities provided. The childminder is a positive role model and has a positive attitude towards diversity, which encourages the children to develop a greater understanding of the community they live in and the wider world. The children have access to dressing up, books and puzzles portraying people from different cultures and backgrounds. These give children opportunities to gain an insight into our multicultural society.

Children also take part in local community events, such as fun runs for 'Sport relief', fundraising for Oxfam and are members of the 'Friends of the rec' group, who help to keep the local park clean and tidy. Involvement in these activities helps to develop the children's understanding of their local and the wider community.

The childminder has some experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and displayed a positive attitude to caring for children with such needs. Children with minor medical needs have also been cared for by the childminder. Appropriate strategies, according to the age and stage of development, are in place to help young children understand right from wrong.

The partnership with parents is good. Parents provide relevant information about their children to the childminder when they start, this helps to ensure children receive individual care and attention. The childminder, however, still uses forms designed by the previous regulator which may lead to some confusion for the parents.

Regular informal discussions and the completion of daily contact books help to ensure continuity of care for the children. Parents also have access to an 'All about me' folder, that the childminder completes for all children. This includes photos and samples of the children's artwork and observations in line with the Birth to three framework. These folders are then given to the parents when the children leave the care of the childminder.

Copies of written policies and procedures, used by the childminder in her daily routine, are made available to the parents to enable them to be aware of all aspects of the service provided. This fosters good working relationships with the parents.

The childminder is aware of recent changes in legal requirements in relation to complaints and investigations and has provided parents with the details of the procedure to follow if they have any cause for concern about the service or the care of their children. The telephone number included in the written policy is out of date which may lead to confusion for the parents. However, the complaints poster displayed on the parents' notice board does have the correct contact details.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a clear understanding of her role in supporting young children in their play and learning. The childminder ensures that she attends training on a regular basis which underpins the work she does with minded children.

Most of the documents required to promote the health, safety and welfare of the children are in place, although the complaints procedure contains incorrect contact details and the forms used to gather additional information on the children originates from the previous regulator. These issues have some implications on the effectiveness of the organisation.

Comprehensive policies and procedures guide the childminder in her daily practice. This ensures children's needs are generally well met. Written information kept about the children is treated in a sensitive and confidential manner. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

During the previous inspection, the childminder was asked to ensure that the premises are fully secure, including the first floor windows. The childminder has now installed a new lock on the front door and ensures that the windows are secure or inaccessible. This promotes the safety of the children.

The childminder was also asked to ensure that children's dietary requirements are met in full and that all records are completed in permanent ink. The childminder has also ensured that both of these recommendations are now taken into consideration, therefore ensuring that children's dietary needs are met in full and records are well maintained.

### **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):

- update the complaints policy to reflect the correct contact details for Ofsted
- improve record keeping: - update the forms used for obtaining additional information from the parents.

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)