

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY261049
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Joanna Scott
<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 husband and three children aged 18, 16 and five, in Walton-on-Thames in Surrey. Most areas of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding, with sleeping and toileting facilities provided on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding four children under eight years, and three children over eight years, all of whom attend on a part time basis. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends local parent/toddler and childminding groups on a regular basis. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA). The family have a cat and pet rabbits.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children's good health is protected because the childminder has regular routines in place which minimize the risk of cross infection. She is vigilant in ensuring that hand washing takes place before any food is prepared, and uses antibacterial wipes or spray to clean work surfaces

and the changing mat. Children learn from an early age to clean their own hands at key times, and individual flannels are provided for them to use. However, some children share a towel to dry their hands in the bathroom, and this does not fully protect them from the spread of illness.

Systems are in place to ensure that children's health and welfare needs are met. The childminder has the skills to care for children should they have an accident because she has attended first aid training, and all required documentation and parental permissions are in place. The children have daily opportunities to be active. They enjoy playing in the garden where they have space to run around, and they make regular trips to local parks and soft play areas where they develop their balance and co-ordination as they climb and slide. Fine motor skills are also promoted. The childminder provides a good range of activities where children can practise their hand to eye coordination and pencil control.

The children make links between good health and diet because the childminder talks to them about which foods are good for them, she displays colourful posters of fruits and vegetables, and she provides children with foods which are nutritious for their meals and snacks. Older children take an active role in the preparations for meal times, and this encourages them to try foods and eat well. Young children are able to recognise their own needs, cups of water are visible to them and easily accessible when they are thirsty. The childminder plans the menu for the week. She takes children's dietary needs into account, and adapts meals so that they are suitable for each child in her care.

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

The provision is good.

The children play in an environment where risks are minimized. The childminder makes good use of safety equipment such as gates to block access to the stairs and kitchen, cupboard locks and socket covers. This enables the children to move around the rooms used for minding with freedom. The children are able to make their own choices about what they play with. The childminder ensures that a very good selection are stored to be readily accessible and within the children's reach. She rotates toys to maintain the children's interest.

Children learn from an early age about keeping themselves safe. The childminder talks to them about issues such as road safety when they are walking to and from toddler group, and they practise and talk about the fire evacuation procedure to ensure that children are confident and familiar with leaving the premises quickly and safely in an emergency.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues. She has a clear procedure to follow should she have a concern about a child, and has attended training to increase her knowledge. This helps to safeguard children.

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

The provision is good.

The children are happy and settled here. They feel part of the setting and are comfortable in the childminder's home. They enjoy a warm relationship with the childminder, and approach her freely to share their games. They play in an environment which is made welcoming and attractive to children. For instance each child has their own low level peg to hang their coat on, and colourful posters and art work are displayed at low level. The childminder plans her day to ensure that the children experience a wide variety of activities in and out of the house, and have time to be active and rest in line with their individual needs.

Resources are rotated and the children confidently request familiar items when they are stored away, knowing that the childminder will make them available. Younger children enjoy sitting with the childminder looking at books, and completing jigsaws. The childminder is very encouraging, she offers lots of praise and this extends the children's learning and enjoyment. They use glue sticks, pens, pencils and crayons with confidence and increasing skill. For instance the childminder verbally explains to a young child that they will need to put more glue onto the card to make it stick, and gently helps her to do this. She encourages the child to show that the picture is her own and the child happily mark makes to 'write my name'. The children take pride in their achievements, this is reinforced by the childminder who puts their pictures up on the door for them to enjoy. Older children like being creative too, and the childminder provides them with unusual resources for them to use. For instance children build a ramp using guttering which they balance against the washing line to create a race track for cars.

Younger children's development is recorded. The childminder uses the Birth to three matters framework, and photographic evidence to record their progress. This is shared with parents and provides a good focus for talking about individual children.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder demonstrates that she knows the children well. This is because she liaises closely with parents to find out about individual children's care and development. The children are treated with equal concern and respect, and this is an ethos she promotes to the children so that they learn to treat others in the same way. The children behave well. The childminder has a very positive approach which encourages wanted behaviour, and suitable techniques to manage unwanted situations. Children understand her house rules which are very relevant to them, and include playing together and sharing, always saying sorry, and coming to her if there is a problem.

The childminder has developed a comprehensive set of written policies and procedures which are shared with parents. Some are signed by the parents to acknowledge their understanding of the service provided. Verbal discussion at drop off and collection ensures that parents know what their child has been doing during the day, and there is a written record maintained by the childminder to refer to if necessary. Younger children's development is recorded regularly and shared with parents. The childminder makes good use of photographs as a record for parents.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her home, time and resources well to create a relaxed and child friendly environment which the children enjoy. She has a good understanding of her responsibilities as a registered childminder, and has developed clearly written policies and procedures to highlight these to parents.

Required adult to child ratios for children under eight years are maintained at all times which ensures that children are well supported. The childminder plans each day with care to ensure that the care of over eights does not impact negatively on the younger children. The childminder has been proactive in accessing training to develop her skills and knowledge, and this benefits the children. Courses have included her CACHE Level 3 NVQ in Early Years Care and Education, as well as short courses child protection, health and safety in the workplace and food hygiene.

All regulatory documentation is maintained. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection three recommendations were raised. Firstly the childminder was asked to make sure that low-level glass panels were made safe. This related to doors in the dining room, and the glass has been fitted with safely film to ensure there is no risk to children in the event of a breakage. She was asked to provide a first aid box with the contents checked frequently and replaced as necessary. First aid bags are in place in the kitchen and car, and the childminder routinely checks that the contents are in-date and appropriate in line with her most recent first aid training. Finally the childminder was asked to have written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. This is in place for minded children. These improvements are beneficial to the children's safety and welfare.

### **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):

- further improve hand drying facilities to reduce any risk of cross infection

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)