

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY266638
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Coral Hales
<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 outstanding. 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 and lives with her husband and two children aged 14 and four on the outskirts of Ewell, Surrey. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. She is currently caring for one child aged under five during the day and four over fives before/after school. Children over the age of eight are also cared for. The childminder drives to take and collect children from school.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health and lifestyle is extensively promoted through first-rate provision and valuable encouragement to enable development of self-care skills. They have a very clear understanding of why they wash their hands because the childminder explains to them very clearly and the older ones are fully independent in their self-help skills. Younger ones are well supported as

they learn. Individual and personal information is discussed with parents to ensure health and medical needs are identified and adhered to and recorded thoroughly in excellent documentation. Very effective systems are in place to ensure medicines are given as required. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and effectively maintains appropriate accident records which are shared with parents.

Children learn enthusiastically about how to achieve good health and are encouraged and inspired to talk about different foods. For example, they discuss a variety of fruits and vegetables and then create a display showing favourite fruits and vegetables. Planned activities, for example, growing mushrooms involves and interests the children. They are successfully well-nourished through nutritious home cooked meals that comply with individual dietary or religious requirements. Snacks of fruit and regular drinks are made available to the children as needed. Mealtimes are seen as a sociable time where children help to set the table then all eat together happily chatting and laughing.

Children thrive as they enjoy a range of activities which contribute to their good health. The garden is used effectively to maximise play opportunities and the children benefit from the fresh air as they are taken and collected from school or when out walking. They delight in music and movement sessions, have good control of their bodies and laugh happily as they watch each other wiggle.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a very welcoming and stimulating environment. They are able to explore and make choices of where to play and can access resources independently. Children are able to use a wide range of safe, very good quality resources, furniture and equipment which supports their play and development. The childminder ensures the safety of the younger children by selecting equipment relevant to their age. Outdoor space is arranged imaginatively for the children's safe play and is well resourced with toys and equipment. As a result children are interested, stimulated and challenged and want to play with the excellent selection of resources.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of safety issues and this ensures that children are very well protected from harm. She is watchful and vigilant and supervises the children closely. The premises are secure and the garden is fully enclosed. Children practise fire drills regularly and the childminder very effectively develops their knowledge of what to do in an emergency. For example, she has a written evacuation plan displayed and the children when asked, were fully aware of what to do should the whistle be blown. Clear systems are in place to ensure children's safe conduct when on outings and when using the car.

Children are well protected because the childminder has a very good understanding of child protection issues and is fully aware of her responsibility to those in her care. She realises that this is her first priority and has attended additional training to update her knowledge to enhance her practice. She has relevant documentation in place and this is made available to parents. As a result the children are kept safe and their welfare is of prime concern.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the childminder's home. They achieve really well because she is highly skilled and uses her extensive knowledge of child development to provide high

quality care. All children are eager to attend and relish their time with her. They are animated and enthusiastic as they make choices and have an excellent attitude to learning. The childminder inspires and enthuses the children to learn and their progress is closely monitored. This ensures the individual learning needs of all those attending are successfully met. She has a good understanding of the Birth to three framework which she uses very effectively to support the learning of the younger children. They are well supported with their learning and an excellent range of resources is used very effectively to interest and stimulate them. Constant interaction with the childminder helps them to build their confidence whilst playing happily. Children are happy, settled and are purposefully engaged throughout the visit and quickly become engrossed in a wide range of purposeful and fun activities. For example, they play musical games, use small world equipment to represent real items such as the dolls house and are keen to take part in the planned craft activity. For example, they cut out hands to decorate to add to a poster. Children are given time to develop their ideas and interests, enabling them to expand their knowledge and understanding of different topics. They show an exceptional ability to make connections with previous activities through displays, books and artwork which re-enforce what they have learnt. For example, children talk about the display of healthy foods and the various displays highlighting different cultures. The time that the children spend with the childminder is relaxed both before and after school. They have fun and are able to freely choose from the resources and activities provided. They have time to complete homework, read books, watch television or play board games together, or to take part in planned activities.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are actively learning about themselves, each other and the world they live in. They share news about themselves and their families, helping them develop a strong sense of belonging. Attractive books and posters show positive images of different people and children learn how others live. For example, displayed artwork shows that they regularly observe and have opportunities to take part in a variety of festivals. Planned activities and lively discussions allow children's learning to be fully extended as they learn. For example, they draw pictures to show their ideas of how they could improve the world to make it a better place for everyone to live together happily. The childminder has a good practical awareness of how to include and appropriately care for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and works closely with parents to ensure all children make excellent progress within their capabilities.

Children behave well and are encouraged to express their needs appropriately. They respond very positively to the childminder's highly effective behaviour management strategies that take into account their age and stage of development. These include certificates that are given out for extra special achievements. Children learn to negotiate conflict and become sensitive and respectful in their interactions with others. They learn to think about how they should behave and what they should expect from others. This is actively supported by the childminder who acts as a very positive role model and is calm and consistent in her approach. An informative policy is in place and this underpins her excellent practice.

The childminder has very good relationships with all her parents and children's individual needs are fully met. Full and detailed information is given to parents which includes well-written and well-presented policies and documents. This allows them to gain a good understanding about the care that she provides for their children, as well as the service she provides for them. Examples of children's work are shared very effectively with parents so they can see the progress their child is making while in the childminder's care. Information relating to complaints is effectively shared with parents. This ensures all parents are made aware of the systems to

follow if issues need to be resolved. Written agreements are in place and this means that all are aware of their roles and responsibilities. Parental feedback is complimentary.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care is significantly enhanced by exceptional organisation and by the childminder's professional and committed attitude to her work. She has undertaken an excellent amount of training to further develop her knowledge and is committed to further training that will benefit her minded children.

Children's space is very well laid out to ensure they can freely move between the play room and the other areas used. The childcare is managed very effectively because the childminder has devised an excellent portfolio detailing all aspects of her practice, policies and procedures and what activities are offered. This shows her commitment to providing high quality care. This contains well-written policies and procedures and shows her good knowledge of the requirements of her registration. She is pro-active in accessing new and relevant guidance and ensures that she is up to date with current issues. This continuing development is reflected in her exceptional practice and children and parents benefit from her increased knowledge.

The comprehensive record keeping procedures are a superb reflection of the childminder's ability to provide high quality childcare and promote children's health, safety, enjoyment and achievement. These are stored securely and confidentiality is maintained. Overall, the provider meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that medication records were signed by parents. She has developed systems that ensure all required documentation is signed as required. This ensures that children's safety and welfare is 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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)