

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY335916
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2006. She lives with her son aged four in Bracknell, Berkshire. The whole of the first floor flat is used for childminding. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children and she is currently caring for two children under five during the day and one child over five before and after school. The family has two guinea pigs and some fish. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

The good health of the children is not adequately protected as the childminder has not maintained a first aid certificate or sought the necessary permission from parents to enable her to seek emergency treatment/advice for children if required. This means there is a potential risk of children not receiving appropriate and necessary treatment in an emergency or when ill. The accident book and medication book that the childminder stated she has in place were not available on the premises.

Children are generally healthy because they follow effective personal hygiene procedures, such as washing their hands as needed and begin to understand the reasons why. Nappy changing routines are suitable and children's home routines are followed, and they can rest and sleep as required.

Children are generally well nourished as the childminder has a suitable understanding of the importance of a balanced diet. Their dietary needs are met and they benefit from healthy snacks, such as fresh fruit, and drinks are readily available. The childminder provides a range of light nutritious meals for the children, for example, pasta, toasted snacks and sandwiches. Children begin to understand about a healthy lifestyle.

The childminder ensures that children have regular opportunities to develop physical skills as they take part in indoor activities such as dancing to music. They enjoy walking around the locality and visit parks and soft play centres. Outside play gives them a sense of freedom and they benefit from the fresh air.

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

The provision is inadequate.

Children are not aware of the procedures they should follow for evacuating the premises in the event of a fire and this could compromise their safety. The welfare of children is not fully safeguarded because the childminder's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues is poor and she is unaware of the procedures she should follow in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance.

Children are cared for in a warm environment that is clean and well-maintained. They are kept generally safe as the childminder has a satisfactory awareness of their developing abilities and ensures that most appropriate safety measures are in place. For example, safety gates are used and heaters are protected. Children access a good range of toys and materials that are appropriate for their age. The childminder ensures the safety of the younger child by ensuring toys for the older ones are kept separate. Suitable procedures are in place to maintain the safety of the children when on outings and when using the car, however, some driving documents could not be found.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a relaxed environment that enables them to feel secure and benefit from the caring relationships that they have with the childminder. Suitable resources support and promote children's learning and these interest and occupy them. For example, they play happily with the train and track and use their imagination well, and enjoy completing jigsaw puzzles. Children's ideas are listened to and the childminder talks to them about what they are doing and joins in with their play. She interacts well and children's language skills are developing well. Younger children play, laugh, chatter and really enjoy her company. They play with interactive toys and happily use a good selection of bright and colourful equipment that interests them and promotes their learning. They also enjoy watching the other children. The childminder has limited knowledge of the Birth to three framework and does not have the pack. Children's social development is encouraged, as they attend groups and socialise with other minded children and this helps to broaden their range of experiences. After school children have opportunities for free play with their chosen toys, or to take part in planned activities or have

time to sit and look at books or play with their friends. Outings are planned during the holidays to local places of interest to further develop children's knowledge.

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

The provision is inadequate.

The childminder has no knowledge of the systems she should have in place in order for her to be able to investigate and respond to parental complaints. They are not provided with information of the procedures they should follow if they wish to express any concerns.

Systems are in place to share information with parents verbally on a daily basis and this helps to maintain continuity of care. Written agreements are in place to ensure all are clear about their roles and responsibilities.

Children respond well to praise and encouragement and as a result behave well whilst in her care. Children begin to learn about the wider world through discussion, however, few resources are available that promote positive images of diversity. Although the childminder has no children on roll with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, she has a satisfactory practical awareness of how to include and appropriately care for them.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder is not meeting the National Standards and is in breach of regulations. She has insufficient knowledge of the requirements of, and fails to comply with, current regulations. She has not attended required training in order to maintain a first aid certificate. Not all documentation that is required is in place, for example, attendance records are not maintained. This has implications about the number of children minded at any one time and the hours they attend, which may affect children's safety and welfare.

Some documentation that the childminder states that is in place, is not available for inspection and this could put children at risk as a result of Ofsted's inability to check that required records are in place. The childminder has a limited understanding of confidentiality as some of her records are currently not on the premises. The organisation of space and resources to meet the needs of the children is satisfactory and allows children flexibility of movement and independence.

The childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children and obtain parental consent for emergency treatment/advice
- ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times and ensure confidentiality of information regarding minded children is effectively maintained. Ensure that a record of children's attendance, including the times of arrival and departure, is maintained
- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and ensure that you are able to follow the procedures in line with guidance issued by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)
- develop knowledge and understanding of the new complaints procedure and make parents aware of the system to follow if they have any concerns

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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)