

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY355742
<b>Inspection date</b>	20 May 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Maureen Croxford

<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 registered in 2007 and there are currently two children on roll. She lives with her husband and their baby on the outskirts of Chiddingfold in Surrey. Minding mostly takes place on the ground floor of the home with bathroom facilities provided upstairs. The garden provides a safe environment for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of two children from one to eight years of age. The family has one cat and two guinea pigs as pets and also keeps chickens.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder has a clear understanding of procedures to be followed regarding accidents and the administration of medication, which helps to protect the children in her care. She ensures that the accident and medication records are signed by parents and keeps them informed of all incidents. The family have one cat, two guinea pigs and several chickens and the childminder ensures that they do not pose a health and hygiene risk to children.

Children are learning the importance of personal hygiene. The childminder protects the children from the spread of infection, for example, she follows good nappy changing procedures including the use of disposable gloves. She cleans all equipment and toys regularly with anti-bacterial agents to ensure that children are protected.

Children are developing an understanding of healthy eating because the childminder provides a wide selection of nutritious snacks and meals, if required by parents, including fruit and vegetables. The childminder is flexible in her approach and caters for the needs of the children she cares for. She discusses in detail with parents the children's individual requirements.

The childminder ensures that all minded children receive many opportunities to enjoy outside physical play, both in the garden and on outings. This helps them to develop a good understanding of a healthy lifestyle.

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

The provision is good.

The premises offer good space and access to the necessary facilities, including a fully enclosed rear garden. Children are cared for in a safe environment, which is secure and ensures that the risk to children is minimised. They benefit from regular visits and outings as good use is made of local amenities.

The childminder has a wide range of equipment and furniture, in good condition, which is appropriate for the stage of development of the children she cares for. Children are able to choose their resources, toys and play materials, which are mainly stored in a cupboard in the kitchen/diner. These include books, craft activities, small world toys, drawing materials, soft toys, construction toys, dolls, musical instruments, trains and cars. The minded children are able to access a range of equipment with some help from the childminder.

The childminder is aware of potential hazards and takes some positive action to reduce risks both inside and outdoors. Smoke detectors are in place and the childminder has a clear evacuation procedure, which helps to protect children. She ensures the condition of equipment is good to prevent accidents and keeps a record of checks of the smoke alarms. The childminder spends her time working directly with the children to ensure their safety. However, the grid on the top of the well is not fully secure. She uses her car to take the children on outings and has appropriate insurance cover in place.

The childminder ensures that children are protected from abuse as she has a good understanding of safeguarding children. She demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge of the procedures to be followed if she has any concerns about the welfare of a child.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder interacts well with the children, asking open-ended questions and taking time to listen to their replies. During the inspection, the childminder sits with the children and helps play to develop. She offers them support and cuddles to make them feel secure. She maintains good eye contact with them as she talks to them and gives them time to express their feelings. The childminder takes the children for regular outings, for example, to the park and the local parent and toddler group.

Children feel very comfortable and relaxed in the provision. The childminder discusses with parents the activities that their children have enjoyed while in her care. She works closely with them and ensures that she pays regard to the children's home routines, and likes and dislikes.

The childminder provides many worthwhile activities and play opportunities for children to enjoy. They are well motivated and interested in a wide range of resources. These include equipment for imaginative play and creative activities. Children are encouraged to express their creativity through activities such as drawing equipment, and sand and water play.

The premises offer areas for children to take part in many activities in comfort and include soft furnishings for quieter and restful moments. The childminder is able to supervise children at all times. She has a good understanding of child development and sets challenges, which are appropriate for the children in her care.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder actively promotes equality of opportunity and takes into account children's needs and treats them with equal concern. Children have access to appropriate activities and resources, some of which reflect positive images of cultures and gender. She continues to develop this area of her childminding. Children are encouraged to care for others, such as taking turns and sharing.

The childminder is aware that some children may have learning difficulties and/or physical disabilities and works closely with parents to provide any special care that may be required. Children benefit from being cared for in an environment where their individual needs and lifestyles are respected.

The children are well behaved and the childminder has good behaviour management procedures in place. She uses distraction, explanation, praise and positive reinforcement to manage their behaviour. The childminder has house rules, which are set at a level of understanding that is suitable for the age of the children. Children are encouraged to behave well and are developing an understanding of the rules, which are shared with their parents and carers.

The partnership with parents and carers is good. The childminder develops good relationships with parents and ensures that she seeks and respects their views. She makes time to talk to parents to share important information about their child's progress and achievements. The childminder offers parents well-written information, telling them about the care provided for their children. However, not all permission slips have been signed by parents.

A complaints policy is in place and a copy given to parents which ensures that they have clear information about the procedure to be followed if they have a concern.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the requirements of her registration and the inspection process. The space within her home is well organised to ensure that children are cared for appropriately and their individual needs met.

Children benefit from a welcoming and secure environment where children feel comfortable and valued. The childminder organises the daily routines well and offers many exciting play opportunities suitable for the children's stage of development. She supervises children at all times and ensures that her day is spent working directly with them. The children enjoy their time in the provision because resources and activities provide sufficient challenges and are easily accessible.

All records are readily available and shared with parents, including the record of attendance. They are stored appropriately and the childminder is aware of the need for confidentiality. The childminder is developing a portfolio, which includes information about the setting, policies and procedures. She understands that Ofsted must be informed of any significant changes or events. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

Not applicable.

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

Since registration 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):

- ensure that the cover on the water feature is fixed securely to protect children
- ensure that written permission is gained from parents to take photographs of minded children.

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)