

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** EY360425  
**Inspection date** 25 April 2008  
**Inspector** Joanne Lindsey Caswell

**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** 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 has been registered since 2007. She lives with her husband and family in a residential area of Tadworth, Surrey. The whole of the childminder's home is used for childminding. Children have access to a lounge and playroom on the ground floor. Toilets, hand washing and sleep facilities are available on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The local shops, park, schools and library are close by. The family have pet rabbits.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years. She is currently caring for three children who attend throughout the week. She is willing to collect children from local schools and regularly attends a local toddler group.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

There is excellent provision in place to ensure children's health and welfare needs are met appropriately. Children are extremely well protected from illness and infection, as the childminder

maintains a scrupulously clean and healthy environment and is vigilant in guarding against cross-infection. All rooms have ample natural light and ventilation, providing a healthy, comfortable environment. The childminder ensures nappies are disposed of hygienically and that the changing mat is thoroughly cleaned between use. Toys are regularly sterilised to prevent cross-infection.

The daily routine is carefully planned to ensure children have ample time to play in the fresh air and undertake regular exercise. Children play in the garden and frequently visit the park, enabling them to run about and move around freely. In addition, children regularly go for walks and enjoy nature activities, helping them to enjoy outside play and develop a healthy lifestyle. Children develop balance and co-ordination as they play with a range of resources, such as pushing dolls' prams and buggies, and riding on wheeled toys. As a result, children regularly undertake frequent and robust exercise which enhances their physical well-being.

There is comprehensive written documentation in place to support children's health and welfare needs. The childminder maintains scrupulous and meticulous accident records and ensures that any administered medication is recorded accurately. In addition, parents have provided written consent for all emergency care routines. This ensures that children's health is promoted appropriately and in accordance with parents' wishes, at all times.

Children's dietary needs are extremely well catered for. Children have frequent drinks and eat healthy snacks, such as savoury options and fresh fruit. The childminder is extremely conscientious in providing freshly prepared, home-cooked, nutritious meals and is willing to cater for all children's individual feeding needs.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's safety and security is given optimum priority. Children play in rooms which have been fully scrutinised for potential dangers and a comprehensive risk assessment is undertaken to identify any hazards. The childminder's home is welcoming and extremely safe for children. Written safety policies and emergency procedures clearly reflect the childminder's ability to recognise possible hazards and take action to keep children safe.

The childminder demonstrates an excellent understanding of emergency evacuation procedures and has identified designated places of safety to ensure children's security and welfare. Smoke alarms are fitted within the home and are tested regularly. In addition, a carbon monoxide detector is available to ensure the premises are consistently safe for children. Sleeping children are monitored closely to ensure their safety and welfare at all times.

Children play with an extensive range of high quality toys and resources, all of which are checked regularly to ensure they are safe for children to use. Low level storage areas in both the playroom and the lounge enable children to clearly see what toys are available and to make safe, independent choices.

Children's safety and welfare is fully promoted as the childminder has a comprehensive knowledge of safeguarding children policies and fully understands the procedures to follow if she is concerned about a child. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

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

The provision is outstanding.

There is an extremely fun, warm and happy atmosphere evident. The childminder has an affinity with young children and provides an extremely high standard of care. Children form extremely strong relationships with the childminder and enjoy very close interaction. Children enjoy plenty of cuddles and physical affection, and approach the childminder confidently for reassurance and comfort. As a result, there is an exceptionally homely and relaxed atmosphere evident and children are clearly very settled and happy in her care. The childminder engages in play with children and clearly enjoys their company. Children sit cosily to look at books together and benefit from the childminder's individual attention.

The childminder uses her excellent knowledge and experience as a professional early years practitioner to plan fun, stimulating and developmentally appropriate activities and play opportunities, which capture children's interests and encourage them to explore and investigate. For example, after a walk in the woods, children explore the feel and texture of leaves. The childminder plans different topics and themes based around the children's own interests. For example, after children show interest in looking at farm animals, the childminder provides the toy farm set and farm animals to reinforce children's understanding of different animal types. Children undertake frequent outings to the park, toddler group and library which broaden their experiences and enable them to socialise with other children.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of the importance of observing children's play and development. She carries out frequent observations and ensures she evaluates these fully in order to plan for children's next stages in learning.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual needs are clearly valued and fully acknowledged, and their care routines are discussed and agreed with parents. This ensures that children follow consistent routines, both at home and at the childminder's house, to enable them to feel settled and secure. The childminder is totally dedicated to treating all children equally and fairly. She gives all children her individual attention and is committed to listening attentively to all children and responding positively to them. As a result, all children are valued as individuals.

Children learn about diversity within the wider world, as they play with a very good range of resources which reflect modern day society. The childminder selects toys, play materials and books carefully to ensure children consistently see positive images of gender, disability and cultural diversity, enabling them to develop positive attitudes towards equality.

Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are fully welcomed into the childminder's home. She is totally dedicated to adapting her care routines and the home environment, wherever necessary, to ensure she can meet all children's individual needs.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of how to manage young children's behaviour. She uses effective and consistent strategies to enable children to fully understand her expectations and recognise acceptable boundaries. Children are treated with total respect and courtesy and the childminder gives high levels of praise and positive attention. As a result, from a very young age, children develop awareness of the need to co-operate with one another and show care and respect for their peers and play materials.

The childminder ensures parents are made fully aware of each child's daily routines. She writes extensive information in each child's diary book, giving a full overview of the child's feeding pattern, sleep routines and daily achievements. This enables children to talk about and share their day with parents and promotes partnership between the childminder and parents. Comprehensive written information regarding the childminding service is maintained and parents are made fully aware of all aspects of care. The childminder is totally dedicated to supporting parents in the care and development of their children and is committed to working in close partnership with them. She values parental feedback and demonstrates a very proactive approach to ensuring high quality care at all times. Written feedback from parents is totally positive and complimentary and describes the childminder as 'exemplary' and 'outstanding'.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder is dynamic and forward thinking in her approach to caring for children. As a fully qualified and experienced early years practitioner, she is dedicated and motivated to undertake further training to enhance her knowledge and skills. The childminder has an excellent understanding of the National Standards. This ensures that children receive the highest levels of care and the conditions of her registration are adhered to at all times. As a result of this, children thrive in her extremely well organised and relaxed childminding home.

Children's toys and play materials are organised exceptionally well. This enables children to access them easily and safely, and enhances their opportunities to develop independence. The daily routine is planned meticulously to cater for all children's differing needs. Each day is flexible and includes ample time for school runs, toddler groups, outings and visits, mealtimes and children's sleep routines. Comprehensive documentation is maintained and is kept up-to-date. Highly effective storage arrangements enable children's details to be stored confidentially and securely.

The childminder 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 which 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

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### 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)