



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	139799
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 September 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Jane Elizabeth Chappell

<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 has been registered since 1992. She lives with her husband and 3 children aged 11, 13 and 16 years old. The family live in a 5 bedroom house, in residential area within the London borough of Sutton.

The ground floor is the main area used for childminding and the bedrooms are available for children to have a sleep. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The family have 2 dogs and 2 cats.

The childminder attends local toddler groups, library and parks on a regular basis. She walks to local schools to take and collect children. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The childminder is registered to care for 4 children at any one-time and is currently minding 4 children, 3 of whom attend part-time and 1 child who attends full-time.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children take part in a good variety of interesting activities and first hand experiences that support their development. Walking to school, play sessions in the garden and regular trips to the park keep children active and improve their physical skills. For instance, when they climb up the slide, pedal the bikes or play on the swings. The childminder's good understanding about appropriate types of activities and levels of support gives the children confidence to try out new skills, set their own limits and know when to ask for help.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Their clear understanding of why they must wash their hands after handling the dogs, and after using the toilet reduces the risk of cross contamination.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They help themselves to their cups of water or juice throughout the day. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents to provide their own food. She ensures that all food is safely stored.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe home where the childminder identifies and minimise risks. This means that children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and to maintaining children's safety outside the home.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment that the childminder makes sure are suitable for their age and stage of development. This enables children to play safely. Toys are organised so that children can choose for themselves, which helps create a welcoming play environment. For instance, some toys are stored in low-level boxes in the area they are used, and there is clear space for toys to be set out.

The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare and has all the required procedures and documents in place. For example, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a secure understanding of child protection procedures in

line with the latest government guidance.

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

The provision is good.

Children develop strong relationships with the childminder, who is responsive to their individual needs and supports them in their play. This helps children settle quickly and feel at home. Good use of praise and encouragement by the childminder raises children's confidence. She recognises their achievements, such as when they attach traffic lights to the road set, make pretend tea and behave well.

Children take part in a good variety of interesting activities and first hand experiences that support their development. They benefit from regular outings, for example to play in the park, to the library, and to socialise with other children at toddler groups. Children take part in planned activities at home, such as footprint painting and baking, as well as choosing their own toys and play materials freely. They become absorbed in activities such as becoming more confident with the road set and all of its accessories and show excitement at the prospect of helping to choose the next activities. The childminder is considering incorporating the Birth to Three framework into her planning of activities for younger children to enhance their learning and development.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from good communication between their parents and the childminder, who talk to each other daily about the day's events and plans for the rest of the week. This helps children experience consistent care and contributes to their overall well-being. Children respond well to the childminder's consistent expectations and guidance. They begin to learn about the effect of their actions on others, for example, when the childminder explains why it is kind to share and take it in turns, and when she praises them for behaving well.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their needs are taken into account, which means that they can all enjoy taking part in activities provided. Children are encouraged to develop a positive view of the wider community, for example through books, stories and by playing with toys that reflect diversity.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Exceptional quality of the organisation of the setting greatly enhances children's care. Children feel at home and at ease within the extremely well organised environment, which helps them gain confidence and settle well. They have use of the whole ground floor and the well-equipped garden that is used daily to support and encourage children's physical development.

Well-written and comprehensive policies and procedures guide and enhance the childminder's daily practice. The childminder 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 obtain written permission from parents for transporting children in a vehicle and obtain information about local child protection procedures. This is now in place to ensure children's safety and their well-being is paramount.

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

There are no complaints to report.

## **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):

- improve knowledge and understanding of the needs of children under 3, for example through the use of the Birth to three framework.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)