



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	507563
<b>Inspection date</b>	02 June 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	June Fielden
<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 satisfactory. 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 2000. She lives with her partner, two adult children, and nine year old son in Oxted, Surrey. The whole of the downstairs of the childminder's home is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding six children under five and one child over five part time. She walks and drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends local toddler groups. The family have three pet cats.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and friendly environment. The childminder maintains children's health through appropriate hygiene routines. She cleans the table with antibacterial spray before children eat, and wipes their noses when necessary. The childminder provides kitchen towel for children to dry their hands on, to avoid the spread of infection. She excludes sick children to safeguard the wellbeing of others. However, children's welfare is not fully protected, as they do not always wash their hands before eating.

Drinks of water or milk are always available to children to ensure they are not thirsty, especially when playing in the garden in hot weather. Children are mainly offered healthy options for lunch and snacks, which include fruit and raw vegetables. As a result of time restraints at tea time, the childminder provides quick meals based on what children like to eat.

Children enjoy adequate exercise by playing in the childminder's large garden, where they spend a reasonable amount of their time when the weather is fine. There is a suitable selection of equipment for children to strengthen their muscles on, including a slide and push along toys for toddlers. Children regularly walk to local schools and parks with the childminder. She ensures children have sufficient rest by allowing them to sleep whenever they need to.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Suitable measures are in place to ensure children's safety. The childminder has written an emergency escape plan which she practices with children in the form of a game. As a result, children know how to exit the building quickly in the event of a fire. The childminder carries out regular risk assessments and has fitted stair gates to prevent children entering certain areas of the house unsupervised. However, hazards exist within the garden, as one of the sheds has glass windows that are accessible to children, and a storage cupboard for gardening equipment is left unlocked.

Children move around freely in the childminder's living room and hallway, where there are cupboards containing toys that they can access for themselves. They choose independently what they wish to play with in both the house and garden. The resources available are suitable for all ages and stages of development.

Children are protected from harm, as the childminder has recently updated her knowledge of child protection procedures. She is aware of the signs of abuse and will record her concerns. The childminder knows how to seek advice if she has any worries about a child in her care, and will report these to the appropriate authority when necessary.

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

The provision is good.

Young children play happily on their own for short periods of time, because they know the childminder is close by to enthusiastically offer her support. She speaks to children in a friendly, soothing manner. Consequently, they are happy to offer her their assistance. For example, one child helped the childminder in carrying the toy garage and cars out to the garden, enabling him to feel useful and boosting his self-esteem. The childminder talks a great deal to children with English as their second language, speaking very clearly, explaining things in a manner that will develop their understanding.

The childminder provides effective play opportunities for children, encouraging their individual interests. For example, she is aware that one child likes music and takes him to a toddler group where they sing action songs. She also sings with the child and assists him in developing his creative ability, by producing his own musical instruments. Children are provided with drawing materials and make cards and cakes with the childminder, to encourage them to use their artistic skills.

Babies are regularly taken to toddler groups to enable them to socialise and mix with others of a similar age. The childminder is familiar with the Birth to three matters framework and sometimes refers to it when planning activities for young children. She has broad experience of caring for children of all ages, and generally uses her own ideas and those obtained from the groups she attends to help babies and toddlers achieve.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are all treated with equal concern by the childminder. She liaises with parents to meet their individual needs. The childminder has sufficient resources to support children's understanding of culture, gender and disability. She believes in integrating children with learning difficulties or disabilities into her provision by adapting activities to meet their needs, and encouraging other children to let them join in their games.

The childminder has an appropriate behaviour policy and a set of house rules to promote acceptable conduct in minded children. Her strategies for coping with unsuitable behaviour involve distracting young children and gently explaining to them what they have done wrong. Older children are given time out and are asked to apologise for their misdemeanours. The childminder believes in concentrating on positive behaviour and promotes this through praise. Parents are kept informed of children's progress through daily diaries. These provide them with details of their child's day, such as what they have been doing and the food they have eaten at meal times. Parents also have the opportunity to talk to the childminder at the end of the day, when they collect their children. They have been made aware of how to raise a concern with the childminder, but have not been informed of the full complaints procedure. As a result, they do not know how the childminder will progress their grievance if they wish to make a complaint.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are safe when visitors are present, as the childminder remains with them at all times. However, children's wellbeing is not fully assured, as all adults living with the childminder have not had the appropriate checks, including a police check completed on them.

The childminder uses a diary to record which children are minded each day, but sometimes omits their arrival and departure times. Consequently, when this information is required, it is not always easy to determine when children were actually present. The childminder has a portfolio of information for new parents, to show them how she organises her practise. This provides details about the childminder's family, policies, sample menus and photographs of children involved in activities she has organised. The childminder stores her records securely to ensure confidentiality is maintained, and shares children's details with their parents on request. She meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The last care inspection recommended that the childminder develop a more thorough understanding of the National Standards and child protection procedures. It was also recommended that children's packed lunches are stored appropriately, and that sleeping arrangements meet the needs of children.

The childminder has now developed a suitable understanding of the National Standards, enabling her to enhance the care she provides for children. She has recently attended a child protection course and has a sound understanding of who to inform of her concerns, in order to protect children from harm. The childminder now stores children's packed lunches in the fridge to keep the food fresh until meal times. She seeks parents approval of sleeping arrangements when minding commences, ensuring that they meet the needs of children, in order to maintain their health.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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 satisfactory. 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 appropriate hygiene routines are followed
- ensure the garden is free from hazards
- ensure parents are aware of the full complaints procedure
- ensure children's times of arrival and departure are entered clearly in the register.
- ensure all persons over the age of 16 years living or regularly present in the household when children are being minded, undergo checks including a police check.

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)