



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	124531
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 January 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Rebecca Elizabeth Khabbazi
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Integrated
<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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

the time of the inspection there were no children in receipt of nursery education. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide nursery education.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1998. She lives with her husband, 1 grown up child and 2 children aged 13 and 11 years old. The family live in a 5 bedroom house, in a residential area of South Croydon, within walking distance of schools, shops, parks and library. The downstairs of the house is the main area used for childminding, with a bedroom used for rest and for overnight care as required. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have a pet cockatiel.

The childminder is registered to care for 6 children under 8 years old at any one time, and is currently caring for 10 children on a part-time basis, 1 of whom is aged over 8 years old. The childminder provides support for children who have special needs.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and Croydon Childminding Association. She is a member of Croydon 'Children Come First' Childminding network, and is accredited to provide early years nursery education. The childminder has an NVQ level 3 in Childcare.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children learn about good hygiene practices when they wash their hands after a messy activity or before lunch, which reduces the risk of cross-contamination. They benefit from varied, nutritious meals that cater for their individual requirements. They begin to develop healthy eating practices when they are encouraged to eat five portions of fruit or vegetables a day and enjoy healthy choices, such as sultanas, as a snack.

Children's health is protected because the childminder has systems in place to keep records of their health needs, any accidents they have or any medicine they need to be given. The childminder is able to respond quickly to any minor accidents or injuries because she has an up-to-date first aid certificate.

Children take part in a variety of activities that contribute to their physical development. They go on regular walks and outings, for instance to soft play areas, where they can practise physical skills and enjoy vigorous physical activity.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment with facilities to meet their needs. Their risk of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder takes effective steps to reduce potential hazards. For instance, she makes sure that access to the kitchen and the stairs is restricted so children cannot go into these areas unsupervised. However, the drains in the extension and garden are not fully inaccessible to children. Safety precautions such as smoke alarms and the fire blanket reduce the risk of children being exposed to harm from a fire. They begin to learn to keep themselves safe when they practise the emergency escape plan or when the childminder talks to them about road safety and why they shouldn't walk too close to the kerb.

Children choose from a wide range of good quality resources which the childminder makes sure are suitable for their age and stage of development so they can play safely. Toys are well organised in the playroom, which creates a stimulating and inviting play environment. For instance, toys are accessible in low level boxes and there is ample clear space for activities to be set out.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has attended child protection training and has a secure understanding of what to do if she was worried about a child.

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

The provision is good.

Children have good relationships with the childminder, who is attentive to their needs and spends time joining in with their play. Their confidence and self-esteem are fostered because the childminder responds to them warmly and recognises their achievements, for instance giving praise for good work.

Children take part in a good variety of interesting activities and first hand experiences that support their development. They benefit from regular outings, for instance to socialise with other children at a childminding drop-in or soft play area. At the childminders home they enjoy free play, choosing activities independently in the playroom, as well as planned activities such as art and craft and cooking. They show pleasure when making a snowman with the childminder and are proud of the finished results.

The childminder has started to make effective use of the Birth to three matters framework to make regular observations of the achievements of children under 3 years old and use these to think about future activities that will further support their progress.

### **Nursery Education.**

There are no children currently in receipt of nursery education provision. The judgement for nursery education is therefore based on discussion and examination of paperwork and on this basis the quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. The childminder has an understanding of the Foundation Stage curriculum and the expectations for children's learning. When children are on roll, written plans show that the childminder provides a range of activities that cover all the areas of learning and offer children a variety of practical hands-on experiences. The childminder has an effective system in place for making observations and keeping records of children's progress, but this is not yet extended to include identifying next steps for children's learning and using these to plan activities that build on what they know and can do.

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

The provision is outstanding.

All children are warmly welcomed in to the setting and highly valued and respected as individuals. The childminder plans her day around the needs of all the children who attend, which ensures they are all included and can take part in activities, including those with special needs. Children respond well to the childminder's calm, consistent approach to behaviour management. They are encouraged to think about how others feel and be tolerant and accepting of each other, for instance when they agree the rules for the setting or talk about different cultures or beliefs. This helps them develop a positive view of the wider community and ensures their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered.

Partnership with parents is good. Children benefit from excellent communication between the childminder and their parents. The childminder works very closely with parents to make sure all children experience appropriate, consistent care, including exchanging detailed information on a daily basis both verbally and through daily record books. Parents receive clear,

comprehensive information about the setting and the childminder offers a flexible, adaptable service that effectively meets parent's differing needs.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder keeps all of the records required to promote the health, safety and welfare of the children, plus additional policies and procedures that keep parents very well informed. She has not yet set up a system to keep a record of any complaints made by parents, which is a new requirement.

The childminder makes very good use of support from the childminding network and shows a strong commitment to continual development and improvement of the care and education she provides. For instance, she attends training courses regularly to develop and update her skills and knowledge.

Children benefit from being cared for in a well-organised environment. For instance, there is a separate playroom for children where toys and activities are readily accessible and there is ample space for them to play. This means they can make the most of the play and learning opportunities available. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

Since the last inspection, the childminder has further developed her knowledge and understanding of young children's care, development and learning by completing an NVQ level 3 in Childcare.

### **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.

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## 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):

- make sure drains are inaccessible to children
- devise a system for keeping a log of complaints made by parents

### **The quality and standards of the nursery education**

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- continue to develop knowledge and understanding of how to plan and implement the Foundation Stage curriculum, including developing a system for using observations of children's progress to plan activities that build on what they already know and can do

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)