

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY306591
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 April 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Ann Moss
<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 2005. She lives with her husband and three children aged one, three and eight years in Addleston, Surrey. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently caring for five children on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local school to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group and takes children to the local library and park. The family have small caged pets.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a relaxed family atmosphere. They benefit from the thorough procedures and documentation in place that support their continuing good health. Children learn about the importance of being healthy through the childminder's skilful support, guidance and well established daily routines. Younger children are beginning to understand the importance of

maintaining good personal hygiene routines and wash their hands after playing outside and before eating with few prompts from the childminder. The childminder reduces the risk of cross infection by ensuring that children are provided with their own hand towel.

Children enjoy regular opportunities for active play, both indoors and outdoors, throughout the year. They use a variety of age appropriate equipment such as a swing frame that supports their co-ordination and builds stamina. This helps children to develop a positive attitude to exercise and promotes their health and well-being. Children recognise the changes that occur in their body and rest and play according to their own needs.

Children benefit from the childminder's training in food hygiene, diet and nutrition. They are well nourished and kept hydrated. They are becoming aware of good nutrition as the childminder discusses healthy eating and selects healthy options with them. Mealtimes are social occasions and children eat well because the childminder understands their preferences and personal eating patterns. The childminder has clear information on children's dietary requirements and works with parents to ensure that these are accommodated.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder displays children's art work to make a welcoming appearance and organises her space indoors and outdoors well so that children can move around safely, freely and enjoy ample room to play. Toys and resources are of good quality and have been carefully selected to support children's play and are regularly checked for hygiene and safety. These are stored low down for ease of access, promoting children's decision making skills.

Children's safety is a high priority and benefit from the childminder attending courses on health and safety, which she implements effectively. The childminder ensures all areas of the premises are safe through thorough visual and documented risk assessments, being vigilant and supervising children well. She uses everyday routines, such as going upstairs, to teach children how to keep themselves safe. She ensures her emergency fire evacuation plans work in practice and that children understand them by, for example, carrying out fire drills.

Children's welfare is well promoted because the childminder has a good understanding of her role in safeguarding children. She has written policies and procedures in place to ensure children's welfare, which she shares with parents, and is confident in her ability to seek advice should she have a concern. This enhances her ability to protect children.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle well in the warm, child friendly environment. They show confidence as they move between the home and garden and as they ask the childminder for resources they cannot reach. Children enjoy playing with the wide range of toys and resources available, which they find interesting and stimulating. They show good levels of independence as they initiate their own play. They have good opportunity to be individually creative and to use their imagination as the childminder ensures there is a good range of role play equipment for their selection and enjoyment. For example, children use props such as a fire engine to role play being a fire fighter as well as joining in with planned activities such as art and craft.

Children develop good relationships with the childminder's own children because she invites them into their play and younger children learn from older children as they play together. There are regular opportunities for outings, for instance to socialise, or play in the park. This helps children build confidence and to adjust to different situations. The childminder responds to children warmly, show interest in what they say and do, and spends time joining in their play, if invited. The childminder readily praises and acknowledges children's efforts raising their self-esteem.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs and characters are clearly understood and respected by the childminder who plans a daily routine to ensure all children are included. They learn about similarities, differences and the needs of others as the childminder encourages them to talk about their home lives, experiences and engages them in activities that sufficiently promote their awareness of diversity, however, toys and resources lack positive images of disabilities.

Children behave very well. The childminder is a positive role model and has a clear and consistent approach to behaviour management. This ensures children know what is expected of them and they feel secure. The childminder uses her effective communication skills to encourage children to share, take turns and think about others. This helps them to develop their relationships with one another and promotes self-esteem.

Children benefit from the good relationship the childminder establishes with parents. Children and parents have their individual needs met well through the sharing of information and the childminder's flexible approach. Parents learn about the provision through the sharing of comprehensive written policies and procedures, sample menus and activity plans. This further supports the children's care and safety.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's effective organisation of time, space and resources. Consistent routines and effective support ensure children feel a sense of belonging and part of the family. This means children are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The childminder has high regard for the well-being of children.

The childminder continues to extend her knowledge and skills by attending courses, keeping herself up to date with current issues and good practice. She regularly attends the local network training sessions and meetings incorporating new ideas and procedures into her practice.

All required documentation is in place and regularly reviewed and shared with parents, which means they clearly know about the provision and the care their child receives. 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 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 children have access to toys and resources that reflect positive images of disabilities

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)