

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | EY344731     |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 08 May 2007  |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Linda Close  |
| <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 2006. She lives with her husband and family in a ground floor flat located in a residential cul-de-sac close to the centre of Kingston-upon-Thames. The local authority is Surrey. There are two children in the family. One attends primary school full-time and one is below statutory school age. The childminder walks children to and from a local school. She also takes children to the local toddler group and for outings to the park and other places of interest. An enclosed garden area is directly accessible from the lounge for outdoor play.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into a spotlessly clean home environment. Their health is safeguarded because the childminder has attended relevant training and she is well informed about maintaining good standards of hygiene. Children are learning about good hygiene because the childminder discusses it with them and explains why it is necessary. Children can be cared for appropriately if they have a minor accident because the childminder has a first aid certificate

and has a suitable first aid kit to hand. Children are given medication if their parents authorise it and they can receive emergency medical treatment promptly because parental written permission is in place.

Children enjoy a good range of tasty foods and healthy snacks. Their weekly menu is varied, nutritious and shared with parents. Children eat their meals with pleasure and comment that "food helps you to be strong". Fresh drinking water is always available and children are encouraged to take drinks often.

Children take part in energetic play on a regular basis. They walk to and from their nursery and the local school each day. They play in the park nearby every day. They also have direct access to a small garden area at the childminder's home and they sometimes enjoy music and movement activities.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children and their parents are welcomed into a pleasant homely environment. Toys are stored where children can see them and make independent choices as soon as they arrive. Good security arrangements ensure that children are safe in the childminder's home. The premises are cleaned before children arrive. Children are cared for in a pleasant temperature which can be governed by thermostats so the radiators do not get too hot to touch. Ample space is set aside for children to sleep, rest and play in comfort.

Children have a lovely selection of books and toys to play with. They are of good quality and suitable for the age of the children minded. Children's toys are cleaned and checked often and anything broken or worn is discarded. They can play and eat at a low table for comfort.

Children are safe in most respects in the childminder's home. She conducts daily checks for safety and takes appropriate steps to minimise most hazards. However, a small number of accessible electrical sockets have not been covered, which are a risk to children. Additionally the flat has smooth floor surfaces throughout and children wear socks which risks slipping.

Children are safeguarded in relation to child protection issues because the childminder is well informed. She knows what signs or symptoms suggest ill-treatment and has contact details for Ofsted and Social Services to hand should she have cause to be concerned.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy an excellent range of well planned activities at the childminder's home. Their progress is assessed at the end of each week and subsequent planned activities are selected and prepared in order to meet their identified developmental needs. The childminder has attended several useful training courses and it is evident that she is exceptionally well informed and is putting her learning into practice for the benefit of the children in her care.

Children enjoy a sensible planned daily routine with time set aside for play and learning as well as regular snack breaks. They like knowing what will happen each day. Children's activities are planned around a weekly theme which is broken down into activities that meet their needs in all six areas of learning. A recent theme about light and dark involved children in play with torches so that they could make shadows, learn about dark and light colours and find out about

the animals that come out at night. They learn many new words and share picture books and stories with the childminder. Children learn about numbers, shape and counting in play and general discussion. For example, they counted the grapes they enjoyed at snack time and counted again to find out how many were left when some had been eaten.

Children take part in well prepared art and craft activities. They mould, roll and cut dough, paint with fingers and brushes and do cutting and sticking activities. Children's learning is promoted at every opportunity because the childminder finds ways to help children learn while they are playing. She engages children in valuable conversations about the names of the animals while they are sorting and matching so that they learn without realising it. Music making activities and singing are enjoyed on a regular basis. Children's daily visits to the local park are used as opportunities for discovering insects and noticing the growth of plants and trees. Leaf printing and other related activities extend their learning at home. Children visit the library to look at books and choose some to bring home. They visit a playgroup to enjoy a different range of activities and to develop their social skills. Children have a report written for their parents about their activities and their progress and this is accompanied by examples of art work linked to their planned themes.

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

The provision is good.

Children gain familiarity with diverse people at the library, in the park and at the playgroup. They have access to a good range of books and resources that reflect a whole range of people and they learn about celebrations in different cultures. Children's individual needs are well known to the childminder. She finds out about the children's health and background from their parents at registration. She uses the information well to underpin continuity of care for the children.

The childminder has no experience of caring for a child with learning difficulties. However, she knows that every child has particular needs and she is prepared to work with parents and appropriate outside agencies if necessary to ensure that individual needs are well met. An exceptionally clear and comprehensive file of information is shared with parents. The information in this file includes menus and details of daily routines as well as information about the childminder's qualifications and training. Parents can also see written plans for activities and learn about the childminder's approach to working with children. Clearly set out policies and procedures ensure that they know about the service she offers. The childminder has established a good working relationship with parents which involves sharing information about children's progress and collaborating to agree next steps in their learning.

Children's behaviour is managed very well. Throughout the inspection they were busy, happy and confident. The childminder speaks calmly to the children. She devotes her full attention to them and is ready to distract them if they should get into mischief. Children know what is expected of them because the childminder explains clearly in terms that they easily understand.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

All members of the household over the age of 16 years were checked for suitability at the time of registration. The childminder ensures that she is close to the children at all times to keep them safe from non-vetted persons. Introductory training courses for childminding have been attended together with a range of useful courses that have helped the childminder to provide

a good service for the children. She ensures that her home is safe in almost all respects. She keeps her home very clean and very well organised which has a positive impact on the good standard of childcare that she offers. The childminder's approach to maintaining correct documents and records is exemplary. She has all of the required permissions and records in place and ready for inspection at any time. The setting meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

Not applicable.

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

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that have required either the provider or Ofsted to take any action 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 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 that children are safe on smooth floor surfaces
- ensure that all electrical sockets are covered

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)