

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | EY360898       |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 04 August 2008 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Lisa Toole     |
| <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 was registered in 2007. She lives with her husband and one child aged three years in East Grinstead, West Sussex. The majority of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five on a part-time basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's thorough and considered approach to keeping them healthy. The physical environment and equipment are both clean and well maintained. Positive steps are taken to reduce risks of cross-infection among the children in order to keep them clean and healthy. Children's emotional health is very well supported because the childminder

is warm, friendly and caring, helping them feel a strong sense of belonging and contentment in her care.

The mandatory accident and medication records are accurately maintained and help safeguard the children's welfare. The childminder also maintains an appropriate first aid certificate and ensures good procedures are in place in an emergency. However, there is a small weakness regarding the lack of written consent for emergency medical treatment. This is to ensure children are cared for in line with their parents' wishes, should they be taken seriously ill or sustain a significant injury while in the childminder's care. Children's general care routines are consistent with those at home, as they are able to rest and sleep according to their individual need.

A nutritious range of meals and snacks are offered to the children, along with regular drinks to support a healthy diet and ensure children are well nourished and kept hydrated throughout the day. Children learn important social skills as they all sit together at the table to eat. They learn about the importance of good table manners as they are encouraged to say 'please' and 'thank you' by the childminder.

Many worthwhile and interesting opportunities are provided for children to keep fit, get regular exercise and fresh air. Outings are undertaken to places, such as local farms and parks, the swimming pool and tumble tots where children learn to manoeuvre their bodies in different ways, using a variety of equipment. At the childminder's home, children are able to play outdoors at the sand pit, on a swing and using ride-on toys. Indoors they enjoy opportunities to dance and develop their fine motor skills through activities, such as mark making and completing peg puzzles.

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

The provision is good.

A warm and welcoming environment is provided for the children, with sufficient and well organised space for them to play and move around freely. There is a wide range of good quality toys and play equipment to support children's play and learning needs across all key areas of development. The easy access to equipment in the lounge provides children with good opportunities to make their own decisions about what they do and play with. Other equipment is rotated on a regular basis, meaning that children are well occupied and stimulated through their every day play experiences.

Children have access to most areas of the childminder's home and she has a vigilant approach to their safety. She ensures that the premises are maintained securely and that potential risks and hazards within the home are appropriately reduced, through the use of equipment, such as safety gates, cupboard catches and safe storage. Children are appropriately supervised at all times and the childminder uses outings and walks around the local area to begin to teach young children about road safety. While on outings, children are securely seated in her car and the childminder ensures that she knows who is collecting each child, as part of her ongoing safety measures. Effective procedures are in place regarding fire safety because the childminder ensures that smoke alarms are working and routinely checked, with appropriate evacuation procedures in place. Child protection procedures are clearly understood by the childminder; she demonstrates a good knowledge and understanding of the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and what to do if she is worried that a child is being abused. She also ensures that parents are informed of her safeguarding duties towards the children in her care.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, relaxed and confident in the childminder's care and she is very friendly, warm and affectionate, which helps children feel comfortable and valued. The childminder demonstrates a secure knowledge and understanding of her role in supporting the children's learning and development across all key areas and of how to observe and monitor children's overall progress. This means that children are being offered an appropriate range of activities, are suitably challenged so that they gain new skills and move forward with their learning.

A worthwhile and interesting range of activities is enjoyed by the children. These include cooking, art and craft activities and imaginative role play games, such as making pretend dinner with the home corner equipment. Children's communication and language skills are being positively encouraged because the childminder spends a lot of time chatting to them. She responds to the younger children's emerging language and teaching them new words. Story times and singing also support the children's language skills as they learn the importance of the spoken word.

Children are encouraged to develop their independence by making their own decisions about what they do and play with. The childminder spends time finding out what the children particularly enjoy doing, so that children are appropriately supported with their developmental needs and interests.

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

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to become aware of the wider world because they have access to resources that promote positive images of equality. They also benefit from the childminder's sound understanding about how to encourage the children's social, moral and spiritual development. They feel a sense of belonging in the relaxed family atmosphere of the childminder's home and show developing confidence in their play. Children receive very good support and all are valued as individuals, whilst also taking account of any additional learning needs or disabilities they may have.

Children are encouraged to play nicely and to treat others with respect and kindness as they learn about the childminder's house rules from an early age. Positive praise and encouragement form the basis for the childminder's behaviour strategies. This helps children gain self-esteem and confidence, as well as learning important messages about right and wrong.

Children benefit from the developing two-way relationship between parents and the childminder, which helps ensure consistency of care. The childminder has some understanding of what to do if a written complaint is made regarding any aspect of the children's care, but lacks an in-depth understanding of the required procedures. The childminder is approachable and open to parents and provides them with the policies and procedures she uses to support her childminding practice. This helps ensure they are fully aware of how she cares for their children. The childminder engages in daily discussions with parents to provide them with relevant information about their child's day.

## Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a high regard for the welfare and overall wellbeing of the minded children and this is evident in the care that she provides. She demonstrates a sound knowledge of her role and responsibilities and has a professional, yet friendly approach towards her minding. The children clearly benefit from her experience caring for children and from the good organisation of her time, space and resources.

The mandatory documentation such as children's individual registration records are all in place and well maintained. Children's attendance is clearly recorded with accurate times of arrival and departure in the register and documents such as the accident and medication records are well maintained. The childminder meets the needs of the range of the 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):

- review procedures for obtaining emergency medical consent
- further develop an in-depth understanding of the procedures to follow regarding written complaints.

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)