



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY217880
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 March 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Suzanne Joyce Stedman

<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 2002. She lives with her husband and 3 children aged 5, 8 and 10 in Southend on Sea. The whole 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 5 children at any one time. The family has a pet rabbit. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and Southend on Sea Childminding Group.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

## **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health and physical development. Each day there are outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies, for example children using scooters to come home from school on and participating in garden games such as skipping. Regular visits to the local park and beach improves children's physical skills. They are becoming aware of the way activity affects their bodies and know when they need a drink or rest.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home, where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Well established hygiene routines and clear explanations increase children's understanding of the importance of washing their hands to help maintain good health. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate to ensure accidents are treated appropriately.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They can help themselves to drinking water or juice from accessible jugs and cups throughout the time they are at the childminders. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and the children's choices to provide nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to the children and meet their dietary needs. She encourages children to make healthy eating choices as they decide what fruit or raw vegetables they would like with their snack. Older children are offered opportunities to be involved in the preparation of their food.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure home where hazards are minimised and various precautions are in place to protect them. For example, frequent risk assessments are carried out. Children are therefore, able to move around the environment safely and freely. The childminder gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and to maintaining children's safety outside the home. She talks to children about road safety and the importance of using pedestrian crossings whenever possible. Children are beginning to learn the importance of fire drills and how to leave the premises quickly and safely.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment in the playroom, which meet safety standards. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder has all of the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. However, she is aware that some procedures have changed and her knowledge is not yet updated.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well settled and very at home in the childminder's house. They are happy and confidently choose toys and resources for themselves. Children are motivated and interested in a broad range of purposeful indoor and outdoor activities which provide stimulating levels of challenge appropriate to their age and stage of development. For example, children enjoy making Easter and Mother's Day cards.

Musical activities include singing and playing multi-cultural instruments. Children take part in regular cooking activities observing changes to ingredients before and after cooking. They learn about life cycles of an ant through bug hunts in the garden and on outings. They plant seeds and watch them grow and change.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child development and uses the foundation stage framework to improve children's achievements. She provides very good support to children in their play, providing an environment that allows children to respond with enthusiasm to new challenges.

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

The provision is good.

Children gain an understanding of diversity as they share books which reflect different cultures, beliefs and disability. They taste fruits from around the world as they make their snack. They learn about their local community through regular outings and trips to the library, farm, local park, beach and shops.

Children enjoy mutually respectful relationships with the childminder. She knows the children well and ensures they are included fully in the life of the setting. Children's individual needs are met and each child is valued. They develop confidence and self-esteem as they make choices and decisions about their play. Children have time to relax as well as be active. They learn to understand behaviour boundaries and learn right from wrong because the childminder uses positive strategies for managing behaviour. For example, children are encouraged to show care and concern for each other and play together harmoniously. Children behave well and are developing good manners in response to the childminder's clear and consistent boundaries.

Children benefit from an effective and positive partnership with parents. The childminder welcomes parents and keeps them informed daily about activities, routines and meals. Parents are provided with good quality information about the setting. Very positive comments were received by parents.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care is greatly enhanced by the exceptional quality of organisation. The premises are well organised, welcoming and inviting to children and their families. Indoor and outdoor play space is used effectively to maximise play opportunities for the children. The childminder has a high regard for the well-being of all children and

she organises and plans her time to ensure children are positively supported in their care, learning and play.

The childminder frequently reads information relating to current childcare issues. All legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being are in place. Comprehensive policies and procedures are used effectively to protect children, promote their well-being and support all to develop their potential. Parents are kept well informed of their children's progress with information shared on a regular basis.

Children benefit significantly from a childminder who is continually updating and increasing her knowledge of child care and development. She is committed to continuous improvement and development and is continuing her training. Overall, the provision meets the needs of all children who attend.

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

Not applicable

### **Complaints 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.

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

## **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.
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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):

- further promote children's safety by updating child protection knowledge.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet <i>Building better childcare: Compliments and</i>
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*concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website:  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)