



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY227438
<b>Inspection date</b>	08 May 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Mary Van De Peer
<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 good.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2002. She lives with her husband and 2 children in Kennington, Ashford, Kent. The whole ground floor of the house is used for minding children. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time and is currently minding 7 children. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends local Parent and Toddler Group. The family has a pet hamster.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA). She receives support from the Local Authority. The childminder supports children with special educational needs. She has achieved accreditation and is a member of an approved childminding network. She is currently in receipt of funding for nursery education for three and four year olds.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

The children are encouraged to eat healthily. They are able to choose from different fruits for their snacks. Drinks are provided constantly to ensure children are not thirsty. They are beginning to learn to recognise the changes in their bodies when they get tired. Children are able to sleep when they need to. Good hygiene practices mean that they are aware when they need to wash their hands. Children are also able to have good protection from common infectious illnesses, as the childminder has effective procedures to cover this.

The children have free access to the garden. They get plenty of fresh air. There is a good range of activities and equipment for children to play with, both indoors and outside. This means that children's physical development is being promoted very well. Children are able to further develop their social skills, when they visit and enjoy local amenities and toddler groups.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children have free access to the downstairs and garden area of the childminder's home. The house is very safe and child-friendly, so that children can move around freely and independently. They can select activities from a wide range of good quality, stimulating toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The childminder gives good priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe. The environment is consistently secure and suitable for children to play in. Although the childminder has thought about her evacuation procedure, she has not practised it recently with the children. There is no written emergency evacuation procedure. However, children's welfare is satisfactorily safeguarded and promoted. For example, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a good knowledge and understanding of the local child protection procedures.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children have a warm and caring relationship with the childminder. They make themselves at home, choosing an activity they want to play with. The children relate well to each other, in spite of their age difference. They are able to develop their independence as can they choose between a variety of toys, books, resources and equipment, which are suited to their age range and capabilities. They are treated as individuals and their individual requirements are well catered for. The toys and resources are stored at children's height, so they can make choices in their play. Children are confident and socialise with other children through regular visits to local toddler clubs. Children really enjoy their time with the childminder. They achieve well, because the childminder is caring, professional and has a very good understanding of how young children develop. They also experience a sense of their local community through attending a variety of amenities.

The children settle well at the childminder's house. The childminder uses the Birth to three matters and the curriculum guidance effectively. This results in her being able to provide stimulating activities such as story telling, mark-making, art and craft and role play to promote the children's learning. They listen and respond to stories, rhymes and songs. The children have a wonderful time making paw prints with animal figures. They enjoy exploring the garden and growing vegetables from seeds. All children spend their time purposefully.

### **Nursery Education**

The quality of teaching and learning is good. There is currently one child attending who receives funding for their nursery education. The childminder has developed appropriate plans, which are flexible and can be adapted to suit the needs and development of all children. There is a wide range of very good resources and activities, which help promote children's progress in all six areas of learning. The childminder has many examples of children's achievements. This shows what the children are able to produce by way of models, pictures and mark-making. The childminder displays some pieces of children's work. There is also visual evidence of relevant posters and pictures, which brighten up the environment. Photographs available show children enjoying different activities, for example, dressing up. The childminder has a secure understanding of how children develop and provides a stimulating environment, in which they can play and learn.

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

The provision is good.

The children are developing good self-esteem and confidence. They are provided with many positive images of the diversities in our society. This helps ensure that their individual and cultural needs are met. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered well. The childminder shows all the children respect and values their contributions to different situations. She has recently learnt Makaton signing and is successfully sharing some of the signs with the children. The children's behaviour is good and they respond very well to guidance and instruction from the childminder. Star charts are used with some of the children and parents carry this practice on at home. The children present play happily alongside each other and get on well.

Partnership with parents is outstanding. The policies and procedures made available, provide valuable information about how the childminder runs her service. She ensures she discusses children's backgrounds with parents. The childminder also provides them with daily verbal feedback about their children's development and achievements. Additional written information about children's progress towards the Early Learning Goals is also planned. Letters from parents whose children currently attend, show how delighted and complimentary they are with her childminding service. This enables her to provide good quality, appropriate care and education for the children.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The children's welfare is most important to the childminder. Children feel at home and at ease with the child-friendly and relaxed environment. They are offered a good level of care and education for their age and level of understanding. This means children are confident and very happy in their play. The childminder's policies are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children, however, some of the written procedures lack detail. All required record keeping is kept up to date. The childminder has obtained relevant qualifications and gained her accreditation. She also attends additional child care training whenever possible. This helps to improve the service and care she provides for children and their families. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Leadership and management are good. Information about the service and the children's progress is shared with parents. This contributes to the continuity in the children's care. Comprehensive but flexible plans are regularly evaluated and adapted, to enable children to make progress in all areas of their development.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The childminder has followed the previous two recommendations, made at the last inspection, to improve her provision:

Obtain consent from parents for children to receive emergency medical treatment and for the application of sun creams.

The childminder has signed consent forms from parents, giving her permission to apply sun creams and arnica where appropriate and to seek medical treatment for their children, if it is necessary. This helps ensure children can be treated appropriately if medical intervention is required. Children are also able to play outdoors and in the sun safely. The childminder has ensured she obtains parental consent for transportation and for photographs of the children to be taken. This means that children can benefit from visiting other places of interest, as well as events being recorded for them to take pride in.

Replenish contents of first aid box.

The childminder has at least two full first aid kits, fully stocked. She now has one for the home and garden play and one for the car. This ensures she is able to treat any minor injuries children may sustain.

## **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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The quality and standards of the nursery education are good.

### 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):

- discuss and practice an evacuation procedure with the minded children, so that they learn how to leave the premises quickly and safely in an emergency
- consider reviewing and updating policies and procedures for parents, to help ensure continuity of care for minded children

#### 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):

- consider providing parents with additional written information on their children's progress, development and achievements

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)