



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY241618
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Joanne Lindsey Caswell
<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 outstanding. 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 2003. She lives with her partner, who is also a registered childminder and works as her co-childminder. Both childminders have joint responsibility for the childminding service. The family have two children. The childminder lives in a residential area of Rudgwick, West Sussex, within walking distance of a pre-school, local schools, shops and recreational areas. Childminding takes place on the ground floor with a designated sleep room provided on the first floor. There are toilet facilities available on both levels of the house. There is an enclosed garden for outside play. The family have a dog.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of four children. When working with her co-childminder, together they may care for a maximum of ten children. Currently, they are caring for 26 children, who attend a combination of both full time and part time sessions throughout the week. Registration includes overnight care.

The childminder attends various pre-school groups on a regular basis and is willing to collect children from local schools.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder is extremely vigilant in ensuring consistently high levels of cleanliness and hygienic practice throughout her home. This ensures that children are fully protected from germs and infections. The childminder maintains a scrupulously clean and very well-maintained environment. Toys are thoroughly cleaned and sterilised regularly to protect children from infection.

Children clearly understand the importance of good personal hygiene. Daily routines, such as hand washing, are made fun and informative, as the childminder explains to children why they must wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating and after playing with the family's dog. Young children begin to learn how to take care of their own needs. For example, the childminder helps them to blow their noses and teaches them how to dispose of tissues hygienically to prevent the spread of infection.

Children's health and medical needs are clearly identified and fully addressed throughout all areas of childminding practice. The childminder is extremely conscientious in ensuring she obtains comprehensive, relevant information from parents, regarding all children's health and welfare needs. This enables her to provide for them accordingly within her daily routine.

Children's health and physical needs are consistently met. The childminder carefully plans daily opportunities for children to enjoy active play in the fresh air and undertake robust, physical exercise. This promotes their healthy development and encourages them to move in a variety of ways. Children enjoy regular walks, they visit the soft play centre and frequently play in the garden throughout the year. This enables children to enjoy vigorous, physical play to develop their balance and co-ordination.

Each child's individual sleep patterns are followed consistently, to ensure children gain sufficient, restful sleep, within a peaceful and comfortable environment. Children staying overnight follow their individual personal care routines and there is provision in place for children to have a bath or shower. Children have their own bedding and linen, which is laundered regularly. This contributes fully towards children's health and welfare.

The childminder plans an excellent range of well-balanced, nutritious meals and snacks. She offers freshly-prepared meals and snacks, incorporating wholesome and organic ingredients, encouraging children to sample a diverse range of foods and tastes to promote their healthy development. Mealtimes are effectively organised to cater for all children's differing needs and the childminder is conscientious in working closely with parents to identify each child's food preferences. Parents are fully informed about their children's dietary intake each day, as the childminder maintains detailed, written records and there are informative menus. This ensures

that both parents and the childminder work closely together to cater for all children's individual dietary requirements.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The premises are extremely safe and secure for children and many precautions are taken to ensure children's safety. The childminder has re-designed the ground floor rooms of her home to create an extremely child-orientated environment. The childminder and her co-childminder are extremely vigilant in identifying potential risks and hazards. She has considered children's safety in the event of an emergency or unexpected events and has devised clear procedures to safeguard children. The childminder works closely with her co-childminder to ensure that children's safety is given full priority at all times. For example, the childminder and her co-childminder remain in contact with one another whilst on outings and when one childminder is away from the home. This contributes towards children's safety and ensures that the childminder safeguards children at all times.

Children play with an excellent selection of high quality play materials and toys, which the childminder frequently checks to ensure they are safe. All appropriate furniture and equipment is available for the care of babies and toddlers. Young children are kept safe whilst on outings as there are appropriate resources, such as double buggies, to ensure the childminder can supervise all children closely at all times to ensure their safety.

All children learn how to keep themselves safe. For example, the childminder helps older children learn the importance of road safety and how to protect themselves whilst on outings. The childminder and her co-childminder discuss the importance of emergency evacuation procedures with older children and explain how children will be kept safe in an emergency. Younger children learn how to keep themselves free from injury within the childminder's home, by not running around inside. This enables all children to understand the importance of taking precautions to protect them from injury.

Children are very well protected from harm as the childminder has an excellent understanding of her responsibilities regarding child protection. This enables her to follow the appropriate procedures, should she ever have any concerns about a child in her care.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy an extensive range of play and learning opportunities. They participate in daily outings and activities, which broaden their experiences and develop their interests in the world around them. Children frequently socialise with other children and enjoy regular outings to local parks and places of interest.

Children's developmental needs are consistently met. The childminder is skilled in planning suitably challenging activities and play opportunities to encourage children's learning and development. For example, she uses opportunities, such as playing with a Megasketcher, to encourage young children to develop mark making skills and talk about pictures. She uses the

Birth to three matters framework extremely effectively to carry out observations of children's developmental progress. This enables her to build on children's learning and plan appropriate activities to address each child's individual interests and abilities.

Children extend their language and communication skills by engaging in conversation with the childminder and her co-childminder and other adults. Babies and children use language and gestures effectively to convey messages and explain their needs. Children play extremely imaginatively. There is an excellent selection of role play resources, enabling children to play creatively and recreate familiar scenarios. Children have freedom of choice to select their own play and games and express their own ideas. They consistently play co-operatively with one another and recognise the importance of sharing. For example, whilst playing a game together, the childminder encourages young children to take turns, successfully encouraging them to share and play well together.

All children are fully engaged in play and activities and show good levels of concentration and interest. The childminder successfully shares her attention equally between the children in her care. She interacts extremely positively with all children and develops strong and very close relationships with each of them. All children enjoy high levels of physical affection, cuddles and kisses. This enables all children to feel extremely settled, relaxed, happy and secure in the childminder's care.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children consistently choose their own play and games, enabling them to develop high levels of confidence and independence. They increase their self-esteem as they enjoy very close relationships with the childminder and she clearly listens to what they say and responds to their ideas. The childminder and her co-childminder are fully committed to ensuring they obtain extensive written information from parents, regarding each child's individual care needs. For example, the childminder ensures she is familiar with each child's likes and dislikes; their feeding and sleeping needs and important factors, such as what frightens the child. This enables the childminder and her co-childminder to fully address each child's personal needs accordingly and be mindful and respectful of any specific needs.

Children with special needs are supported extremely well. The childminder is committed to meeting all children's individual specific needs. This ensures all children are welcomed into her home and feel valued and respected.

Children behave very well. They clearly understand acceptable boundaries and confidently recognise right from wrong. Children share and negotiate well and understand the importance of taking turns. The childminder demonstrates a very calm, competent and patient approach to managing children's behaviour, which children respond positively to. The childminder and her co-childminder continually work closely together, to implement consistent strategies for managing children's behaviour. This is highly successful and enables all children to fully understand both childminders' expectations.

The childminder forms very successful partnerships with parents and carers. She gives daily verbal feedback on children's activities and is dedicated to working with them. In addition, the childminder maintains detailed, daily written records in each child's 'day book'. This enables parents to be fully informed of their child's daily routine and individual care needs. The close and strong partnership of the childminder and her co-childminder, promotes consistency for children between routines followed at home, and those implemented by the two childminders. There is comprehensive, informative written information for parents regarding the childminding policies and procedures. This enables parents to be fully informed about the childminding service and understand their children's daily routines.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder demonstrates an extremely organised and highly professional approach to all areas of her childminding practice. She is totally dedicated to providing a high quality service and is committed to caring for children in a very relaxed, fun and loving atmosphere. For example, the childminder has re-designed the ground floor rooms of her home, and the garden, to provide an extremely child-orientated and highly stimulating environment. Children can access all areas safely, enabling them to explore and enjoy a diverse range of play and activities within a safe and secure home.

Children are fully protected from adults who have not been vetted, as all necessary checks are carried out. The childminder is fully aware of the National Standards and ensures that she complies with all conditions of her registration at all times. The childminder and her co-childminder work closely together, to ensure that all children's individual needs are fully identified and addressed. The organisation of the childminding service is strong, as both childminders take an active part in organising and implementing daily routines and written policies.

The daily routine is organised extremely well to meet the needs of the different children. As a result, there are many opportunities for children to play, rest, relax, enjoy outings and sociable mealtimes. The premises are organised extremely well, enabling children to be fully supervised at all times.

Comprehensive written records reflect the highly organised, professional childminding service. All children's records are maintained in full and are stored confidentially. Both the childminder and her co-childminder take full responsibility for maintaining documentation and this reflects all requirements of the National Standards.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last Ofsted inspection, one recommendation was raised relating to the proposed arrangements for the childminder working with an assistant. The childminder has complied with all necessary regulations regarding planning regulations. This ensures that the organisation of the childminding service meets all necessary requirements.

### **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.

### **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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)