



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY265182
<b>Inspection date</b>	16 August 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Clare Stone
<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 July 2003. At the time of the inspection she has 19 children on role, most of who attend on a part-time basis. The childminder also works with two assistants that help her in the day to day running of the childminding service provided. The childminder lives with her husband and two school aged children.

They live in a house in the Penenden Heath area, close to the town of Maidstone. The whole of the house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden patio available for outdoor play, but the lower garden area is not registered for use.

The family have one cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted effectively by the routines at the childminder's house. Children are learning to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating, this helps stop the spread of germs. As a result, children learn the importance of good personal hygiene. The childminder has a current first aid certificate to ensure that accidents are dealt with appropriately. There are also clear procedures not to mind children if they are unwell. This helps to protect children and minimise the risk of cross infection. Children have access to physical activities daily, this helps them understand the need for regular exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle. Children have access to drinks when they want and their dietary requirements are met effectively.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is warm and welcoming, allowing children to feel secure and build on their confidence. Children's safety is promoted by regular risk assessments and the evaluation of these practices. This ensures children are cared for in a safe, child friendly and well organised environment. There is plenty of space for the children to move around freely, allowing them to extend their physical skills and face new challenges. Equipment and resources are checked regularly and replaced if damaged. Children are kept safe on outings due to the childminder's clear procedures that she follows. The childminder has some knowledge of child protection procedures and possible signs of abuse. However, this is limited, which compromises the welfare of the children in her care.

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

The provision is good.

Children arrive and settle well at the childminder's house and are confident to make themselves at home. They have access to a broad range of activities and resources. Children are independent as they choose between toys and books. The babies played with push and pull toys and were fascinated by the treasure basket which they spent a long time exploring. They benefit from the childminder's time and enjoy the time she spent playing with them. The childminder sits on the floor so smaller children can sit on her lap and feel secure. Children are encouraged to follow their own interest. This builds on their independence and promotes self esteem.

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

The provision is good.

Children feel good about themselves because the childminder treats them with respect. They develop an awareness of their own and other cultures because the childminder has a positive attitude towards diversity. Children develop stable relationships with others and benefit from praise and encouragement from the childminder. However, children's behaviour is not being addressed at a level they can understand. Therefore, they are not learning how to behave in

an acceptable manner. The childminder has a friendly but professional relationship with parents and makes time to keep them informed of their child's development. The childminder has no experience of working with children who have learning difficulties, but is willing to help and assist and support the children in her care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards. She is organised with her documentation which is paramount to the children's welfare. The childminder is committed to extending her knowledge and up dates her qualifications regularly and is aware of the Birth to three matters framework. The childminder has good policies in place for recruiting staff. However, systems to monitor, review and evaluate the quality of care provided by the assistants has not yet been established. As a result, the childminder has not yet taken appropriate steps to identify the assistants strengths and weaknesses or provided opportunities for them to build on what they know in order for the children to receive continuity of care and consistency. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

The childminder has followed the previous recommendations, to improve her provision.

Recommendation states that the childminder has an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder has now enhanced her resources and activities to promote equality and anti-discriminatory practice.

Recommendation states that the childminder provide hygienic washing facilities. The childminder now uses a tub of water for the children and individual washing items to stop cross infection.

### **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 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):

- increase knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and possible signs of abuse
- ensure correct strategies are used for behaviour management

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)