



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY269445
<b>Inspection date</b>	11 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Jackie Liffen

<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 2003.

She lives with her mother in Hawkhurst, Kent. The whole of the ground floor 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 six children at any one time and is currently caring for 10 children under five, all of whom attend on a part time basis, and nine children over five before and after school. The childminder goes to local pre-schools and schools to take and collect children. She has two dogs.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

The childminder ensures that children are protected from infection by encouraging them to wash their hands under running water before eating and after toileting. She is aware that the sleeping arrangements for the dogs in the kitchen is not good practice and ensures that children begin to learn hygienic routines by ensuring that they wipe their hands and faces with individual flannels. Children are protected from the heat of the sun because the childminder puts sun cream on them to stop them burning. She also contributes to children's good health by using disinfectant to clean surfaces and prevents the transmission of germs by giving each child individual linen. Children usually rest or sleep according to their needs in one of the travel cots which the childminder keeps in a spare bedroom. They exercise regularly when they walk to and from pre-school or school and also take part in physical activity when they play in the garden or the park. Children under three benefit because the childminder has an excellent knowledge of the needs of babies and puts the Birth to three matters framework into practice.

Children are becoming familiar with healthy eating because the childminder takes every opportunity to help them learn about it during their imaginative play, for example, when they prepare pretend, sustaining meals for their dolls. The childminder writes a menu for parents demonstrating how she provides suitable meals to ensure that children are well nourished. For example, she explains how children generally have a healthy diet consisting of cereal for breakfast, home cooked lunch and a snack of fruit or raisins. Children help themselves to a drink whenever they are thirsty.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very welcoming, child-friendly and safe indoor environment which is risk assessed and suitable for the purpose. Children easily access a range of toys and play comfortably on the living room floor. They are unable to reach dangerous substances in the kitchen because the childminder takes precautions such as putting catches on cupboards and drawers, in order to minimise the risks. The childminder also helps children to avoid accidental injury by using a range of safety strategies such as stairgates. Children are unable to leave the premises unaided because the front door is kept locked and the garden is totally secure, surrounded by a tall fence.

Children's safety is maintained on outings by the childminder who uses equipment such as reins and pushchairs to keep them close by her. She also takes provisions such as a first aid kit and a mobile telephone in order to protect children's welfare if necessary. Children's wellbeing is safeguarded by the childminder who has an excellent knowledge of child protection procedures. She quickly notices any signs of abuse and uses her experience and training to deal effectively with difficult situations.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children confidently enter the setting and help the childminder fetch some toys from the play house in the garden. They quickly become happily engaged, for example they sometimes play with a doll's tea service which they find and set out for themselves. The childminder appropriately extends children's knowledge and imaginations. For example, from time to time she supplies water in different colours and talks about the suitability of different types of food. As children become more involved in their imaginative play they begin to spread into all areas of the setting where they are comfortable and familiar. The childminder continues to increase their ability and knowledge in all areas, for example she encourages them to count objects such as candles. Children sometimes develop creative skills and their knowledge of the world around us by learning through play and producing works of art based on their experiences. The childminder spontaneously plans the day's activities according to the weather and developmental needs of the children she is caring for so that all children progress exceptionally well in order to meet their potential. Children choose what they want to play with and decide where and how they explore different aspects of play, for example older children generally like to play football when they return from school although sometimes they prefer to chill out for a period of time reading or playing board games. The childminder often continues their exploration of a subject by encouraging children to follow their interests, for example, she supplies any necessary tools for them to experiment appropriately. Children are cared for superbly by the childminder because she has an in-depth knowledge of their needs and uses her skill and ability to help them progress in the best way possible.

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

The provision is good.

All children are valued, respected and included by the childminder who has a great deal of experience working with children of diverse nationalities, cultures, disabilities and religions. She ensures that all children benefit from a range of resources and activities to help their awareness of the multicultural nature of society and help their understanding of equal opportunities. Children have their specific needs met well by the childminder who works in close partnership with parents and professionals in order to help all children reach their potential. The childminder is very experienced in caring for babies and young children and studies the Birth to three matters framework so that she is up to date on how to provide well for them.

Children are becoming aware of their own needs and respect the needs of others when they play co-operatively, for example, when each child takes a turn to pour tea for the dolls. They work harmoniously with others, helped by the childminder who believes in positive reinforcement and takes every opportunity to praise them. She creates opportunities to challenge children so that when they achieve more difficult tasks their self esteem is raised. The childminder also enhances children's continuity of care by working efficiently with parents to make sure that they are aware of everything relevant within the setting. For example, she has signed written permissions from parents for special occurrences such as putting on sun cream; she also produces attractive policies containing detailed information to help parents work in partnership to benefit their children.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder is highly qualified and experienced in child care and provides extremely well for children; consequently children's development and progress is continually being enhanced. On occasions the childminder's mother helps to look after children so that they receive close attention on a one to one basis; they benefit a great deal from this. Children's security is enhanced because the childminder gives high regard to organising the setting to ensure all of them are stimulated and enjoy the activities on offer. Their well-being, safety, achievement and ability to take an active part in the setting is promoted by the childminder who keeps careful records to ensure that her registration requirements are well met. She uses her documentation to check children's progress and prompt her to provide appropriate activities which are suitable for the age and stage of all of children. The childminder has detailed, well presented, written policies which help to consolidate her relationship with parents; these also work in practice to promote children's health, safety, welfare and educational progress.

The provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to obtain a device to monitor children whilst they sleep. She has obtained a baby monitor so that she can hear when children awake, from anywhere in the house. The childminder was asked to obtain up to date information on child protection issues and she has obtained relevant, recent literature in order to safeguard children's welfare. The childminder has also produced a written complaints policy as requested.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection 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):

- ensure that children's good health is not compromised by the dogs in the kitchen.

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)