



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY331280
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 November 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Beth Kingsland
<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 satisfactory. 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 2006. The childminder lives with her partner and two children aged one and nine years. They live in a village on the outskirts of Sittingbourne. The whole 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 two children at any one time and is currently caring for two children on a rota basis. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children receive a balanced diet. Their dietary requirements are fully met as the childminder serves all meals provided by children's individual parents. Children receive regular snacks, such as biscuits or pieces of fruit from the childminder, which helps them begin to gain an understanding of healthy eating. They have access to drinking water to ensure they remain hydrated. Children benefit from daily opportunities to engage in physical activities and enjoy opportunities to play outside in the fresh air. They develop their co-ordination and climbing and balancing skills using equipment, such as the climbing frame and slide in the childminder's garden as well as using larger apparatus at local parks. This helps them understand the importance of taking regular exercise as part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

She has completed relevant first aid training and is aware of how to deal with accidents effectively recording and sharing information appropriately with parents. Children's health requirements are known and the childminder implements effective procedures to administer medication to children, ensuring they remain healthy. Children's health is generally well maintained, however, the childminder has not implemented effective health and hygiene policies to ensure the risk of cross infection is minimised. For example, children are not encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times and nappies are changed on furniture without the use of protective barriers. As a result, children's health is compromised.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being able to move freely and safely around the childminder's home and garden and space is appropriately used to maximise opportunities for children to participate in a range of experiences. They have independent access to a small safe range of equipment and play provision. Effective procedures are implemented to ensure the provision is regularly checked, kept clean and well maintained, which contributes to ensuring children's safety.

Children's safety is ensured inside the childminder's home and garden because she removes all potential risks and hazards. For example, plug sockets and dangerous substances are inaccessible and sheds and greenhouses are kept locked and secured. Children are kept safe when using the childminder's car as appropriate consent is obtained and safety seats and belts are in place and arrangements to ensure their safety on outings are discussed and agreed with parents.

Children are well protected and safe guarded from harm because the childminder has an good understanding of her role with regards to child protection issues. She is aware of the different types of abuse, recognising possible signs and symptoms that may cause concern. The childminder has an appropriate understanding of the records required to be kept and knows the procedures to follow should she be concerned about a child in her care ensuring their wellbeing is promoted. Effective systems are in place to ensure the safe arrival and collection of children, which ensures their safety is not compromised.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop warm trusting relationships with the childminder and enjoy their time in her care. They are happy and content, and are beginning to forge new relationships with the childminder and their peers. Children snuggle up for a cuddle and enjoy looking at books with the childminder.

Interaction between children and the childminder is positive and the childminder actively plays with the children, encouraging them to respond to her questions and games. They become skilful communicators because the childminder uses words and gestures responding to babies babbles and introducing new skills and knowledge. Children benefit because the childminder recognises the importance of play in a child's development. However, she has not developed a knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework. As a result, children do not experience a suitable range of exciting and stimulating activities and experiences. Although children have free and easy access to a range of equipment, they are generally not suitable to their ages and stages of development. As a result, children's individual needs are not fully met.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about the community through regular walks in the local area. The childminder pays particular attention to ensure that the individual needs of the children in her care are met. However, opportunities for them to learn about the views, feelings and needs of others from around the world are limited. There is a limited range of equipment for children to develop a positive attitude to and increase their awareness of diversity.

The children behave well. They receive clear guidelines from the childminder when teaching them right from wrong. They respond well to the childminder and are happy and content within her care.

Good relationships have been developed with parents and carers. Parents receive clear information about children's achievements and progress. Parents are well informed about the service the childminder provides. However, they are not advised of the procedure should they wish to make a complaint about the childminder's service.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are made to feel welcome and they benefit because the childminder knows them well. She makes appropriate use of her home and provides a relaxed and friendly environment in which children are well cared for and outcomes for children are successfully promoted. Consequently, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Children are protected because the childminder keeps most of the required documentation and has a generally good understanding of the requirements of her registration. However, she has overlooked the requirement to inform parents of the procedures for complaints. She keeps

accurate records of children, which includes details of children's likes, dislikes and individual needs. All information is kept safely and securely to allow for confidentiality.

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

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration 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 satisfactory. 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):

- develop procedures for nappy changing and hand washing to ensure children are protected from the spread of infection
- develop a knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework in order to plan and provide a suitable range of activities for children, which are appropriate for their stage of development and based on their individual needs
- increase the range of equipment and resources for children up to the age of three
- make available to parents a statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint

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)