



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY333337
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 October 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Margaret, Ann Sandfield
<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. She lives with her husband and three young children in Folkestone. With the exclusion of her own bedroom, the whole of the remainder of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She is currently minding three children on a part time basis. The childminder collects children from local schools. The childminder takes children to the local parks and parent/toddler groups. The family has a budgerigar, a cat and a hamster.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is positively promoted. Children enjoy a reasonably tidy and clean environment, which is well ventilated and is of a suitable temperature. The childminder cleans toys, equipment and resources regularly, for example, she checks the trikes and bikes before children can use them. The sandpit is kept covered when not in use. The childminder follows recommendations for the care of pets. Their inoculations and treatments are kept up-to-date. As a result of these routines, children's good health is generally well maintained.

Children are encouraged to eat healthily. They enjoy healthy snacks of raisins and slices of apple. Children are offered regular drinks of diluted fruit juice, which their mother provides. All food and drink is provided according to dietary needs and parents' wishes. Children are usually expected to wash their hands before having any food or drinks, although this did not happen before eating snacks. They are expected to wash their hands after going to the toilet. These routines generally help prevent the spread of infection and enable children in the care of the childminder to in the main remain healthy.

Children have regular access to vigorous outdoor play in the garden and can use the patio area if the grass is wet. They go on outings to the local parks and regular walks to the local shops. Today they are going out for a walk and intend playing jumping in and over puddles. This ensures children are starting to learn the importance of exercise in promoting their good health. The childminder records all medication administered to children. The childminder has a first aid box in the house, which contains basic equipment to treat a child appropriately should they have an accident.

Although the childminder has not attended the Birth to three training, she is experienced in caring for young children and babies. She supports their growth, development and emotional wellbeing competently.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a warm and welcoming environment. Children's welfare is safeguarded both in the house, garden and on outings, as the childminder takes positive steps to prevent them from coming to any harm. The childminder believes in closely supervising children at all times. She has reins available for younger children and insists they hold her hand, when out walking. The garden is secure and fully fenced. The childminder provides a safety gate to prevent children unexpectedly gaining access to the stairs or areas of the house not for their use. All electrical sockets are covered. Children can play on and with the equipment safely, as they are regularly checked and any broken ones are mended or thrown away. These routines help protect children in her care.

Children's well-being is safeguarded. The childminder has appropriate accident/incident reports to record any injuries a child might receive whilst in her care or prior to their arrival. The

childminder has a current first aid certificate and a good knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop their self-esteem and confidence well. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of how to promote children's learning and development. Although she has not undertaken any training in meeting the needs of very young children, it is evident that she has a great deal of experience with this age group. As a result, children are developing in all areas effectively.

The childminder provides a stimulating range of age appropriate activities and the children receive a great deal of consistent caring support and encouragement. Children have regular opportunities to build on their creative skills during regular art and craft activities. Yesterday they designed and made Halloween cards. Children have regular opportunities to play on a variety of outdoor equipment in the garden and in local parks. Children are often taken on walks to the local shops and other places of interest in the community. Yesterday they walked to the pet shop to see the bunnies. This helps children to develop their confidence, physical and social skills and learn about changes in their environment. Very young children are starting to make meaning of the world. Children's care and enjoyment is being effectively met.

Children are appropriately challenged as the childminder knows the children well. She actively facilitates their interests, by encouraging the children to get a book and look at the pictures with her. She is asking them open-ended questions and re-enforcing and extending their language. The childminder repeats the items/objects seen in the books and describes the picture to them. Children are also encouraged to participate in action rhymes, to further promote and develop their language skills. The childminder talks to children affectionately all the time and gives them lots of praise, encouragement, hugs and kisses. As a result, children are able to make the most of their time with the childminder and their development is promoted well.

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

The provision is good.

Children are settling happily into the homely, welcoming environment, as the childminder makes them feel part of the family. She meets their individual and group needs effectively. Children confidently make choices as they are offered a range of activities. The children understand the childminder's expectations and, as a result, they behave well. The childminder is a good role model. She demonstrates how she uses positive methods for managing their behaviour, for example, consistently giving them lots of praise and encouragement and responds to them warmly and with a great deal of affection.

The childminder knows the children and their families well. She is sensitive to their individual needs, wants and interests. The childminder creates effective partnerships with their parents. The childminder uses a variety of ways to exchange information with parents. She completes children's contact books for parents to share in their child's play experiences and routines. The

childminder talks to the parents whenever they wish. Parents have completed detailed records regarding their children's needs, including special needs. The childminder has a broad range of experiences working with children with special needs. She has been on several courses, supporting her knowledge and understanding of children's individual needs. All children have equal access to a wide range of play materials, including a few multi-cultural toys and resources. The childminder treats all children with equal concern.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a welcoming and well organised environment that meets children's needs effectively. She uses her knowledge of the children to plan, deliver and evaluate the care she provides for children. The childminder strives to enhance the care she is providing for children and their families. Children are protected from persons not vetted because the childminder never leaves visitors alone with them. Both she and her husband have appropriate criminal record clearances.

All required documentation is in place and is stored discreetly. The registration certificate is now displayed in a way that makes it easy for parents to see. Children's welfare is well supported by written records. She has personal information on children to ensure their needs are met effectively. She records the exact hours that children attend. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

n/a

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

Since registration, there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provide 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 the range of multi-cultural resources to enable children to learn about the wider world through play.

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)