



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY333848
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 October 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Freeda Wildon
<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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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 two older children in Sittingbourne, Kent. 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five on a part time basis. The childminder walks/drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler group. The family has a cat.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is inadequate.

The premises are clean and well maintained. Children learn about personal hygiene through daily routines introduced by the childminder. For example, regular practice of hand washing. However, effective procedures are not in place to prevent the transmission of infections because the childminder cares for children who are infectious. As a result, children's health is compromised.

Although the childminder has a current first aid qualification to help her act in the best interest of children in an emergency; children's personal records are not all in place to allow the childminder to take appropriate action and act according to parents' wishes. For example, details of the General Practitioner and of allergies, and permission to seek emergency treatment. In addition, the childminder administers prescribed medicine to children without prior written consent from parents. This is a breach of the regulation and compromises children's health. No records of medicines given are kept and signed by parents.

Children have regular access to drinks such as squash, water and milk to keep their bodies hydrated. Children are offered healthy snacks, for example, dried and fresh fruit. As a result, they are developing a positive attitude about healthy eating. Opportunities for children to participate in physical exercise to support their large muscle movements are in the garden in fine weather, visits to the park and to the local toddler group.

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

The provision is inadequate.

The toys and equipment are clean and suitable for children to play with. Children are learning about safety when they are away from the setting. For example, they are learning that they must not run off but stay together. However, systems to ensure that children's details are available on outings are not yet established. Safety within the home is not adequate because not all risks have been identified and hazards removed. For example, medicines, glass cabinet and sharp objects are accessible to the children. As a result, children's safety is comprised. Safety procedures are in place in the garden to ensure that children can play safely in the garden.

Smoke alarms are in place and a fire blanket is available. However, the fire blanket is not stored appropriately. An emergency evacuation plan is not in place or practised with children to prepare them to evacuate the premises safely in an emergency. In addition, ineffective procedures are in place for the collection of children, if a parent is unable to. As a result, children's welfare is not promoted. The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of issues and procedures relating to child protection, which contributes towards keeping children safe from harm and neglect.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They are confident and secure in her care and readily make themselves at home. Children have a variety of toys and equipment to choose from and enjoy spending time with the childminder for example, identifying insects, building homes for their favourite toys, drawing and colouring. Children respond positively to the childminder because she is kind in her interactions. The childminder knows what activities children enjoy and provides the activities she knows the children are interested in. For example, building and insects. Children enjoy exploring in the garden finding worms and insects.

Children's language skills are developing because the childminder constantly talks to them; she introduces new words to improve their vocabulary, for example triangle and cymbals. In addition, she describes to children what they are doing, giving them choices and asking them questions. Children are learning to count, for example, how old they are and the childminder has introduced mathematical language such as big and small. Children sing songs involving numbers for example 'five little monkeys'. Children are praised and encouraged, however children's self-esteem is not always promoted when managing behaviour. Although the childminder is aware of the Birth to three matters framework she has not yet introduced this into her service to help plan creative activities for young children.

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

The provision is inadequate.

Children are contented and settled in the childminder's care. However, formal procedures to ensure that children's individual needs are known and cared for have not been established because the childminder relies on verbal information from parents. For example, there is no child's information sheet to record children's allergies, their likes and dislikes and parents wishes to provide appropriate care.

As yet the childminder has not had the opportunity to care for children with special needs. Children learn about the local community through visits to the park and local amenities. A selection of resources reflecting positive culture, ethnicity and disabilities is used by the childminder to teach children about differences in our society. The childminder praises and encourages children to help them share and take turns. She used explanation to help children understand about acceptable behaviour. However, strategies for managing unwanted behaviour are not positive, for example, children are placed on the bottom step of the stairs for time out. As a result, children's self-esteem is not developed.

Contracts are not in place to record business arrangements and appropriate parents permissions are not obtained from parents. For example, permissions for outings and to transport children in a vehicle. This does not ensure consistency between home and the childminder and respecting parents' wishes. There are no written policies available to inform parents about the childminder's service. There is no evidence that parents know how to complain. In addition, the childminder is not aware of the current regulation relating complaints. This does not promote partnership with parents.

## Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are made to feel comfortable and at home. They are aware of the daily routine of the day. However, the lack of organisation of the environment means that children are not able to play safely. For example, there are inadequate safety measures in place within the home and on outings. The attendance register shows that the childminder complies with the registration procedures. Ofsted records show that all adults living on the premises have undergone checks to establish their suitability.

The childminder fails to ensure that documentation required for the efficient, safe management of the provision is effectively maintained to ensure the welfare and care of children. In addition, the registration certificate is not displayed during operating hours for parents to see. Overall the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides care.

## 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children
- keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children
- devise and implement a policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious and make sure parents are made aware of it

- assess the risks to children in relation to glass cabinets, medicines and sharp objects, and take action to minimise these
- develop awareness and understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour, taking into account their age and stage of development
- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint which is in line with current regulation
- ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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)