



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY334853
<b>Inspection date</b>	18 October 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Claire, Alexandra Parnell

<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 2006. She lives with her husband and two children in a house in a residential area of Orpington. The home is within walking distance of local shops, schools, parks, and transport links. The minded children have access to the downstairs part of the property with supervised access to upstairs for toilet and bathroom facilities. The lounge-diner is used as the main playroom and sleeping provision is provided downstairs. Children do not have access to the rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight at any one time. Currently, she cares for three young children on a part time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Bromley Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from good hygiene procedures to promote their understanding of the importance for personal hygiene. The childminder talks to the children about why they need to wash their hands, before and after eating and after toileting. Children's independence is encouraged by a supportive childminder who helps children with their toileting and washing. Children learn to wipe their noses and dispose of tissues adequately to prevent infection.

Children's ongoing health needs are promoted through the effective recording of accidents and the safe administration of medication. Parents are kept informed of times and details to promote continuity of care.

Children are provided with healthy options of food and drink to promote their understanding of healthy eating. Children receive a wide variety of healthy snacks and freshly cooked meals according to their dietary requirements. The childminder uses relevant information from the parents to ensure allergies and preferences are taken into account. Children are encouraged to develop their tastes by trying new foods throughout the day. Children can access their drinks themselves and are actively encouraged to drink when the weather is hot or they have participated in physical exercise.

Children participate in regular physical exercise and activities to promote their physical development and well-being. They walk to and from school on a daily basis, enjoying opportunities for fresh air. They have access to a local park and toddler clubs where they actively use the equipment available to them to extend their physical skills.

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a safe and secure environment. The childminder regularly assesses potential hazards within the setting and takes action to make the accessible areas safe for children. Children are not able to leave the premises unaccompanied because the childminder ensures that children are well supervised and that exits to the premises are secure and inaccessible.

Children play with safe resources that are relevant to their age and stage of development. The childminder has an abundance of relevant equipment, such as pushchairs and car seats that are regularly checked to ensure that they are safe to use. The childminder does not use her car to transport children but, on occasions, her husband transports the children in his car. The childminder takes appropriate steps to gain consent from parents to allow safe transportation of their children.

Children actively learn about road safety due to the daily walks to and from school. Children are reminded to hold hands and learn through clear explanations about safe crossing. The childminder ensures children are securely strapped into pushchairs to promote their safety. Children can be safely evacuated from the house in an emergency due to the effective procedures

followed by the childminder and her family, although children and their parents are not made aware of these procedures. Children learn about the impact their actions may have on their own and other people's safety through clear explanations and instructions given by the childminder, such as throwing toys and looking after toys.

Children's welfare is promoted and they are protected from harm due to the childminder's knowledge of child protection issues. She has a clear understanding of her responsibilities and makes this known to parents through an effective portfolio.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and occupied in the childminder's care. They play with a small selection of activities relevant to their age and stage of development which are pre-selected for them. They have fun with the childminder who positively interacts with the children to ensure that they are occupied and busy. However, younger children have a limited selection of resources to choose from and have limited opportunities to socialise with other children, as the childminder chooses to spend the majority of time in the house. Therefore, children's development and choice is not fully extended to encourage participation in social activities with children of their own age. Children's understanding and communication is, however, enhanced due to the practical and questioning conversations held between the children and the childminder. Children enjoy time reading and looking at books with the childminder who uses the resources well to encourage children's interest in stories.

The childminder has a basic understanding of the Birth to three matters framework, therefore acknowledging children's achievements and using this information to offer some stimulating opportunities to extend some areas of development further.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with respect and are recognised for their individual personalities and needs. Therefore, children gain levels of self-esteem in the childminder's care. However, children have limited access to resources that portray positive images in today's society, therefore, diminishing their opportunities to understand about diversity.

The childminder understands the importance of assessing children's needs to ensure that she has the capabilities and knowledge to offer the appropriate care to children with special needs, therefore, meeting their needs.

Children learn about right and wrong and reflect this in their behaviour with the childminder. This is due to the positive emphasis made of positive behaviour and the careful and professional manner in which the childminder deals with unwanted behaviour. Children are praised and given cuddles which make them feel proud about their achievements. They are given clear guidelines and explanations about what is acceptable behaviour and what is not. These are shared openly with parents to encourage continuity of care.

The partnership with parents is good and effective. Clear policies and procedures are available to inform parents of the service that they are receiving, including information about making concerns known to regulatory bodies. Parents receive written and verbal information on a daily basis regarding their child's day and any significant developmental achievements. However, parents are not actively encouraged to be reciprocal with information from home regarding the child's development. Therefore, continuity for the child between the home and childminder's setting is not fully encouraged. Parents are requested to give written consent for some aspects of care, such as transportation and emergency treatment, therefore, enhancing children's welfare and safety.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a childminder who has completed relevant training and has clearances to care for children unsupervised. Children's welfare is promoted further by the childminder ensuring that they are in her care at all times.

Children are very content and settled in the childminder's care due to her patient and caring attitude. The childminder is aware of her responsibility towards minding relevant numbers of children to ensure that their needs are met.

All relevant documentation is recorded accurately and stored securely and safely. Records are only accessible to relevant people, therefore, promoting children's ongoing welfare and confidentiality.

Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

### **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 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 younger children have access to further resources to promote all round development
- provide activities and resources that positively reflect diversity

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)