



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY335377
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 October 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Janette Mary White
<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 was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband, one adult child aged 22 and two children aged 15 and 11, in Dartford, Kent. All areas of the property are used for childminding and 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 and is currently minding one. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a good range of experiences, which promotes their knowledge and understanding of good health issues. A changing mat is used when changing children's nappies although, gloves are not used. Children are offered regularly drinks of water or juice throughout the day. The childminder encourages children to be independent with routine self help skills, such as feeding themselves with finger foods. Children's hands are not always washed to ensure they are clean before they eat finger foods. The childminder has a good understanding of nutritional needs. Children are beginning to grow their own vegetables and snacks are prepared with organic fruit and vegetables. The childminder takes account of the children's wishes and she has agreed with the parents to promote healthy options. Regular visits to local parks and playgrounds stimulates and improves children's physical skills. They become increasingly aware of the way activity affects their bodies and know when they need a drink or a rest. Children are not afraid to attempt new challenges for themselves, which in turn, promotes their physical development and sense of wellbeing. Children's accidents are recorded and the parents have acknowledged this injury by signing the accident record.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised, safe and stimulating environment. The childminder undertakes a written risk assessment and effectively assesses and reduces risks accordingly. There is space for children to move around and play freely within safe boundaries. Young children are developing an awareness of how to keep themselves safe because the childminder takes time to talk to them and helps them understand why certain procedures are necessary. For example, the children are given clear explanations of crossing roads safely. There is a written fire drill procedure although, this does not promote younger children's understanding. Children have not practised the emergency evacuation procedure, restricting their practical understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

The childminder ensures the premises are secure and that toys and equipment are safe and appropriate for all ages and stages of child development. Effective procedures ensure the welfare and safety of the children the childminder cares for. The childminder has attended a number of training courses related to child protection. In this way she has ensured that her practice is underpinned by a good and up to date knowledge of possible signs and symptoms of abuse, and also the correct procedure to follow should she have any concerns. She has produced a good written statement about child protection and she makes sure that this is discussed with all parents before their children attend. She has procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted, such as written permission to transport children.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's house. They enter confidently and make themselves at home. They are beginning to choose between a variety of toys, books and activities which appeal to all. Toys stored in boxes are not labelled with words and pictures to aid the children's independent choice. The childminder is using Birth to three matters framework to adapt activities in order to promote younger children's learning. Children are enthusiastic when listening to stories and use this experience when 'pretending' to read to a line of soft toys. They listen and respond to rhymes, stories and songs and relish the sensory experience of making marks with their fingers when painting. Children spend their time purposefully. They enjoy exploring a broad range of activities which contribute to their creativity, such as listening and dancing to music, playing instruments, painting, baking. Children have some opportunities to play with basic resources to promote equality of opportunity.

Children show great pride in their achievements, because the childminder takes time to talk to them and praises them for their efforts. She is keeping a album with pictures of the children taking part in past activities, such as making cakes, messy play and playing with musical instruments. She encourages them to care for the resources on offer and to help tidy them away. Children show good levels of curiosity and imagination. They use all their senses to explore a range of experiences. They benefit from lots of close contact with the childminder. She spends a great deal of time talking and playing with them when she reads books and helps them with art and craft activities.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well behaved and understand the behavioural boundaries set by the childminder. They are beginning to understand the need to share and how being kind to each other prevents children from being hurt. The childminder is firm with the children while retaining an element of fun. She is sensitive to children's feelings when she helps them understand right from wrong and consistently turns negative situations into positive experiences with kindness. Children respond well to the childminder and are secure and happy in her care. The childminder goes to a great deal of effort to ensure that the individual needs of all the children in her care are met. Children are provided with exciting experiences and are enthusiastic when making creations to take home for their parents, such as art and craft pictures and home made cakes.

Children are treated as individuals and with equal concern by the childminder. They feel secure and benefit from consistency of care, which comes about through the childminder and parents working together. The childminder has discussed and recorded all the information to enable appropriate care, such as religion and language spoken. Although, she has not ensured that parents have given written permission to seek emergency treatment or advice on behalf of their child. The childminder has a good awareness and previous experience in caring for children with learning difficulties. She gained this experience while working at a pre-school. The complaints procedure is explained to the parents. She has a sufficient understanding of her policy for parents to make a complaint and there is a system to keep a record.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are comfortable and settled within a well organised environment. They feel secure and at ease with the childminder and their surroundings. As a result, they make themselves at home and lead in their play. Children's welfare, care and wellbeing is promoted, due to the childminder keeping the required records and documents. All records are easily accessible and ready for the inspection. However, the childminder is unaware of how long some of these records must be retained, such as the complaints records. She has experience of working with children of differing ages and abilities. First aid training is up to date. The registration certificate is clearly displayed for parents and the daily attendance record contains clear arrival and departure times for children. There is no record of visitors. The childminder has all the required checks in place. A good range of written information about the service and the children's activities are shared with parents. Comprehensive systems monitor keeping children safe. 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):

- continue to encourage children's independence and self help skills by appropriately labelling resources.
- obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

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)