



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	250661
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 January 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Lynn Denise Smith
<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 2000. She lives with her husband and one child aged almost two years, in Manningtree. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group, takes children to the library and takes children to the park.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding two children aged eight months and three years, one of whom attends on a full-time basis and one of whom attends on a part-time basis.

The childminder has two pet dogs.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept healthy within the childminder's care as they follow her clear instructions with regards to washing their hands after using the toilet and before meals. They have free access to the ground floor bathroom, encouraging them to become independent with regards to personal hygiene. Children who are unwell in the childminder's care are comforted and their parents are contacted to collect them early if necessary. Children's medical needs are compromised as the childminder has not maintained her first aid qualification and does not have written permission in place to enable her to seek medical treatment in case of an emergency.

Children experience regular fresh air when they are with the childminder: they go for walks in the local area; visit the duck pond to feed the ducks and play in her garden when the weather permits.

Children's dietary needs are well met as the childminder and parents work effectively together to provide children with a well balanced diet which contains good amounts of fresh ingredients. Children sit together at meal times and use the time to share gently conversation and to discuss good table manners. Children have regular access to drinks throughout the day.

Younger children's dietary needs are effectively met as the childminder liaises closely with parents and follows the parent's wishes with regards to weaning and bottle feeding.

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a very well organised, clean and child friendly home. They mostly play in the recently built conservatory which was erected to provide additional play space for minded children. The playroom is well presented with comfortable furniture and shelving which houses an exciting range of play equipment. Children freely access the rear garden through doors which lead from the conservatory and enjoy outdoor play in a well organised play area.

Children safely access the toys and play equipment from storage boxes which are stored within a range of shelving in the playroom. They can self select from the lower shelves and ask the childminder to reach the boxes on the higher shelves. These mostly contain toys which are suitable for older children. Children play with clean and hygienic resources as the childminder has a clear routine for washing and cleaning the equipment.

Children are safe within the childminder's home as she ensures that her home offers safe and secure play opportunities. Areas which the children are not to have free access to are made inaccessible by stair gates. Children develop a clear understanding about road safety when they go on trips with the childminder as they follow her instructions and play an active role in deciding whether the road is safe to cross.

Children are protected from potential harm as the childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of her responsibilities to protect the children in her care. They are always in her supervision and she closely monitors visitors to her home to ensure children are always in the proximity of suitable adults.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and content in the childminder's care. They play happily with a good range of age appropriate toys and play equipment. Children approach the childminder with ease and enjoy the interaction they receive from her.

Children have good opportunities to express themselves through creative play as they are provided with an exciting range of creative resources. They are encouraged to help themselves to the equipment for free messy play as well as being provided with some adult-led and planned activities.

Children learn about their local environment when they go for walks with the childminder. They look at insects and plants and talk about the animals they see on their walks.

Children enjoy each other's company, their social skills are further developed as they regularly attend local parent and toddler groups.

Younger children are provided with age appropriate activities in line with their stage of development. The childminding day is planned around younger children's sleep and meal patterns.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are very well met as the childminder and parents meet prior to the childminding arrangement commencing to discuss the children's likes, dislikes and individual requirements. The childminder uses this knowledge to inform her practice. Children have good opportunities to play with a range of resources which reflect diversity and enable them to explore other people's differing needs. Children who require additional help are very well supported as the childminder uses her extensive knowledge of special needs to provide a fully inclusive environment for all children.

Children learn about the childminder's simple house rules as she positively reinforces them through discussion and consistency. They learn right from wrong through her guidance and support and gain an understanding about negotiating and taking turns when they play board games and have to wait for their turn.

Children's well-being is very well promoted as the childminder and parents have developed a good working relationship. The parents and childminder share information verbally on a daily basis and use a communication book to share written information about the younger children in the childminder's care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by an experienced childminder who is also a qualified Nursery Nurse. She uses her many years of childcare knowledge to provide minded children with a secure and well organised childminding service. Children are always in the supervision of the childminder and she ensures that they are safe at all times.

Children are cared for in small numbers enabling the childminder to provide the children in her care with good quality individual attention. She plans to continue to increase her provision, however, she always keeps the children's best interests at the forefront of her service.

Clear and effective records are in place to support the childminder's practice and ensure that parents are kept fully informed of their children's day. Records are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that the childminder is fully aware of any changes to the children's needs.

Overall, children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the time of the last inspection, the childminder was asked to ensure that the administration of medication records are countersigned by the parents. Children's health needs are now effectively met as parents are always asked to countersign all records relating to accidents and medication.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection 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):

- ensure children's medical needs are effectively met by updating the first aid qualification with immediate effect
- ensure children's medical needs are effectively met by implementing a procedure for obtaining the parent's written permission for the childminder to seek emergency medical treatment in an emergency.

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)