



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	125545
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 February 2007
<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 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 1991. She lives with her husband and two children in Dover, 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding 10 on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler group.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean environment where they learn the importance of personal hygiene through the daily routine such as hand washing before eating, after using the toilet and after playing outside. In addition individual hand towels, bibs and bedding helps to prevent the spread of infection. Current first aid training helps the childminder act in the best interest of the children should there be an accident. The childminder keeps records of accidents that occur and a record of medicines given. However, she does not have in place prior written consent to give medication. Although she has verbal information about the medication and when it was last given, it is not written down. This does not fully ensure that she acts according to parents' wishes.

Most of the food children have is provided by the parents, but fresh fruit is available for the children. Water and fruit drinks are always available to keep children hydrated. Children have opportunities to learn about a healthy lifestyle because they go out for walks to the park and walk daily to schools and pre-schools. The garden is mostly used in the fine weather.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Informal daily risk assessment ensures that the premises are safe and secure. Toys and equipment are safe and clean because the childminder checks and cleans them regularly. Fire detection and fighting equipment are accessible contributing to children's safety. For example, there is a fire blanket in the kitchen and smoke alarms are situated in the childminder's home. In addition, there is an evacuation plan which is practised with most children to enable them to leave the premises safely in an emergency.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe within the home and when they are away from the setting, for example, they learn about road safety when they walk to and from school and pre-school. Effective procedures are in place for the collection of children, therefore children only go home with authorised persons. The childminder is aware that she must contact the appropriate agency if she has any concerns about child protection. However, she is insecure in her knowledge of how to identify some aspects of abuse and what to do if allegations are made against her or her family.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive happily and settle well, making themselves 'at home'. Relationships are developing and the use of gentle encouragement and praise build children's self-esteem and confidence. Children are learning to be independent, for example, tidying up and getting themselves dressed to go outside. The childminder knows the children well and knows the activities they enjoy. She prepares the environment with their favourite toys to welcome them, however, because of the space restriction; several of the toys are stored out of reach in a cupboard or behind the

settee. Although a wide range of activities are provided, organisation does not allow children easy access and freedom of choice.

Children are supported in their language development by the childminder, who introduces new words to their vocabulary. For example, playing with puzzles and naming the animals such as 'giraffe'. All children enjoy painting, older children make collages with their handprints and hand painting gives younger children experience of different painting techniques. Although the childminder is aware of the Birth to three matters framework she has not yet accessed the framework and introduced it into her service.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled with the childminder. They are encouraged to be independent, for example; they help with the tidying up and getting themselves dressed to go outside. Children are well behaved because positive strategies are in place and consistently applied. All children are welcomed into the childminder's home, who has experience caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities. Children learn about differences in our society through regular visits into the community. There are resources available to help children learn about the wider world, but as yet they do not reflect disabilities.

Daily communication with parents supports positive relationships and ensures that parents are informed about children's care and welfare. However, the childminder has not ensured that appropriate parents' permissions are in place for medication and for transporting children. The childminder is not aware of the new regulations regarding complaints and has not informed parents of the complaints procedure. As a result, parents are not told how to make a complaint and how complaints are recorded. In addition the registration certificate is not displayed for parents to see, which is also in breach of the regulations.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children feel comfortable and 'at home' with the childminder because she organises the daily routine to include quiet times, play, meal times and outings. Most required documentation for the safe and effective management of the setting and for the welfare and care of children is maintained. Records are stored securely and confidentiality is maintained in most cases. However, accident and medication records are not recorded confidentially and as a result, entries are visible to all parents.

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

Following the last inspection, the inspector made five recommendations. These related to documentation; safety checks; good hygiene practices regarding hand washing; resources that promote equal opportunities and to keep sufficient detailed records of significant issues and share with parents. The childminder has successfully addressed these recommendations, contributing to satisfactory outcomes for children.

### **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 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):

- obtain prior written consent from parents before administering medication
- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and procedures to follow should an allegation be made against you or a member of your family
- develop knowledge and understanding of the Birth to three matters framework
- develop a complaints procedure that reflects current changes and ensure it is available to parents
- ensure that the registration certificate is displayed for parents to see during childminding hours

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)