



Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** 125649  
**Inspection date** 24 May 2005  
**Inspector** Sarah Morfett

**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** 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 1996. She lives with her husband and two school aged children in Dartford, 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 two children part time. The childminder walks and drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group.

The childminder holds relevant qualifications. The childminder is willing to support children with special needs. The family have two guinea pigs.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Outdoor activities help the children to develop control of their bodies, for example as they play in the garden with the sand and the water they are able to perfect motor skills. Regular visits to local parks give children the opportunity to develop strong physical skills, climbing on the climbing frame enables them to develop a sense of balance. Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene as effective hand washing is promoted, the children discuss with the childminder why they must wash their hands after playing in the garden and going to the toilet, they understand that it "stops the spread of germs." Children are kept safe from risk of infection as there is a sickness policy in place.

Children are able to help themselves to drinks as the childminder keeps their cups within reach, these are refilled regularly. Children are encouraged to eat healthily, fruit is always available for snacks. Children's dietary requirements are considered as the childminder keeps records of children's allergies and notes their likes and dislikes. Parents can provide packed lunches for their children. The children and the childminder eat together as this encourages the children to sit at the table and makes eating a social and pleasant occasion.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming child friendly environment where risks have been identified and minimised. This means that children feel able to move around safely, freely and independently. Children are able to utilise a range of age appropriate activities, they can make independent choices from toys and resources at their level. Children are taught how to keep themselves safe when out with the childminder. They learn road safety and are encouraged to hold hands. Children are kept safe in the home with an effective evacuation procedure that they can understand and practice with the childminder. Children learn how to respect their toys as the childminder encourages them to help keep them clean, children enjoy everyday activities such as hoovering and helping the childminder with household chores.

The childminder has the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example she holds a current first aid certificate. Children are kept safe from the risk of harm and neglect as the childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and she has attended a local child protection course.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well settled in the childminders care. There is an activity out for them to play with when they arrive and they quickly make themselves at home and appear confident. The range of stimulating resources on offer invites children to make independent choices. They select toys which promote their relevant stages of development, such as construction toys and train sets. Children play well alone or with the support of the childminder, together they build imaginative games, for example building with Winnie the Pooh Duplo set, triggers lots of open-ended questions and leads to a discussion about bridges that the child can relate to everyday life. The childminder has recognised that her knowledge of child development needs updating and is studying for an NVQ 2, children will benefit from her extended knowledge of their development. The childminder has regard for the Birth to three matters framework.

All children play purposefully, the activities that they enjoy are fun and stimulating, children have fun whilst they learn. Children are comfortable with the childminder and recognise when they need a rest, the minded child asks for a video as he is tired and knows that he needs some quiet time. Activities are extended by the childminder, for example after seeing ladybirds in the garden the children have fun cutting and sticking pictures of them, children gain knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with an adequate variety of toys and resource's which promotes their awareness of diversity, for example the children are able to play with puzzles and play figures that reflect positive images of different races and cultures. Experiences offered are anti-discriminatory and non-stereotypical, as boys and girls can play with cars, dolls and homemaking equipment. Children are encouraged to have respect for each other and their surroundings, they join in tidying up and take their plates out to the kitchen after they have finished lunch. Children behave well in the childminders care, as she communicates with them and gives praise and encouragement, they understand the boundaries and know what is expected of them.

Children are respected as individuals. Confidentiality is maintained as their daily routine is discussed with parents. Children have a warm relationship with the childminder, they develop self assurance as the childminder supports their decision making. The partnership with parents works well, the childminder keeps up to date with the children's individual requirements, all children's needs are met.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at ease and at home within the warm adequately organised environment. This means that they are confident to initiate and extend their learning and play, the children feel confident to experiment with new experiences. Children make sound progress in all areas of development and this is shared verbally with parents. Some of the policies and procedures in place promote the welfare, care and learning of the children, however some are basic. The children will benefit as the childminder extends these. The childminder has a positive attitude to updating her knowledge of children's development and has undertaken an NVQ in child development. This she hopes will enhance her minding practice and will enable children to make improved progress in all areas of development. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report

## **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):

- continue to develop knowledge and understanding of children's development.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)