

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY343131
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 July 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Karen Scott
<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 2006. She lives with her husband in Minster, Sheerness. The whole 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding one. The childminder visits the local parks, shops and toddler groups.

The childminder is a member of an approved childminding network.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their play in a clean environment. The childminder ensures that children in her care follow good hygiene practices, washing their hands after toileting and at lunchtime, for example. Presently parents and carers supply lunches and these are stored appropriately to ensure food remains fresh. Children receive healthy snacks such as fruit and bread, encouraging

them to develop healthy eating habits. Children are protected from dehydration as they are offered drinks throughout the day and at times when they may feel thirsty such as on waking. Children's routines regarding sleeping patterns and times for eating are respected resulting in the childminder meeting their individual needs. They have daily physical exercise either in the garden or through walks to local places of interest. This helps them to understand the need for regular exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle. Children who are infectious are asked not to attend, preventing the spread of infection. The childminder shows an understanding of the importance of receiving parental written permission to administer medication. However, the childminder accepts pain relief medication for a child from a parent in case it is needed without prior written permission, putting the child at risk. The medication is not given to the child as the childminder feels that he does not need it. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate so is able to administer first aid in the event of an emergency. She would seek emergency medical advice or treatment if required but does not have written parental permission to do so.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their play in a spacious and well-organised environment, allowing them to move around with ease. The environment is safe and secure and children are kept from harm as they cannot access rooms or items that could be dangerous. Toddlers discover their own boundaries, learning about rules and crawling safely. Children have easy access to toys and resources that are appropriate for their ages and stages of development and items with small parts are not accessible to babies. The childminder has procedures in place in case of emergency and parents and carers are informed as to who will assist in the care of their children if such an event should occur. When being collected by somebody different the childminder asks for written parental permission and if possible likes to meet the person before hand, helping to keep children safe from harm. The garden is fully enclosed and children supervised when playing outside, helping to keep them safe.

The childminder has a reasonable understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedures to follow should she have any concerns about a child in her care but is not secure in her knowledge. The childminder is vague as to the procedures she would follow if a child were not collected or should become lost while in her care, therefore not fully safeguarding children.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy, relaxed and confident. The childminder is warm and affectionate, making children feel comfortable and valued. Children relate well to the childminder and have formed a close relationship with her. She encourages them to be independent, offering praise and encouragement. Children enjoy and learn from a range of activities and resources. Mathematical thinking is developed through play with jigsaw puzzles, shape sorters and bricks. The childminder also counts bricks with the children, as they are stacked, for example. Children develop a healthy interest in books and enjoy stories. They benefit from regular visits to the library and the childminder encourages children to become involved in the stories that she reads. She continuously talks to children in her care, commenting on what they are discovering and enhancing their language development. Children enjoy music, listening to it, dancing to it and playing with musical instruments. Resources are available for children to participate in art and

craft activities that encourage their creative development. Children benefit from various outings to local places of interest such as parks, playgrounds, farms and the beach. Babies enjoy positive interaction with the childminder and other children at toddler groups. The childminder is aware of what the children in her care enjoy participating in and meets their interests in the activities that she supplies. She plays with children, extending their learning.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with respect and made to feel good about themselves. When caring for more than one child the childminder says that she will give each child equal time and attention. Differences are acknowledged positively and children gain confidence by being acknowledged by the childminder as important individuals. Children learn about differences in society through books but there are very few other resources reflecting diversity in society. The childminder does not have experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. However, she would work with parents and carers to provide the additional care required to meet the needs of the child. The childminder uses appropriate strategies according to age and stage of development, such as distraction and one to one support, to help children understand right from wrong. Children also benefit from lots of praise and encouragement. Consequently they are well behaved.

Parents are informed about their child's day through regular chats and a contact book. Before children are placed in her care, the childminder gathers all relevant information ensuring that they are cared for appropriately. Children's individual routines are met as the childminder asks parents and carers to write down a typical day for her. Some written policies and procedures are in place but most information regarding the care that the childminder offers is verbal. Parents and carers are aware of how to complain as they are given a detailed procedure in writing.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

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

Children benefit from well-organised time, space and resources and they receive ample adult support to help them feel secure and confident. The childminder liaises with other minders and attends local groups to help keep herself abreast of current childcare practices to enhance the care that she offers children. Records are stored securely and confidentially but are easily accessible when required. Parents and carers are informed of the childminder's conditions of registration as the certificate is on display. A daily register lists children's times of arrival and departure meaning that the childminder has an accurate record of attendance should it be required. Prior parental written consents for minding children are obtained. The childminder also obtains consents for taking children out in the car. The childminder is aware of the need to record any accidents in writing but has not yet had the need to.

### **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 childminder 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 written, dated, parental permission to administer all medication
- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- develop knowledge and understanding of issues relating to child protection in order to keep children safe from harm

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)