

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	136918
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Claire, Alexandra Parnell
<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 has been registered since 1986.

She lives with her husband and two teenage daughters.

They live in a house set in a residential area of Chislehurst within walking distance of a main-line railway station, shops, library, recreation ground and local primary schools. The whole of the ground floor and one bedroom is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a total of six children under eight. At present she cares for six children, two on a full time basis, the remainder on a part time basis.

The childminder trained as a state registered nurse. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and her husband works as her childminding assistant. She attends carer and toddler groups and has regular social contact with other childminders and their minded children.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children learn about good hygiene practices and procedures to promote their wellbeing and prevent cross infection. Babies nappies are changed effectively, disposing of the nappy appropriately, the mat wiped after each change and the childminder washes her hands thoroughly. Older children are encouraged to use the toilet independently with sensitive support to learn effective hygiene practices. Children are reminded to wash their hands well after toileting and before eating. Great care is taken to ensure germs are not spread by cleaning toys and keeping children and babies clean at all times.

Thorough procedures are in place to promote children's ongoing health needs. Parents' consent is sought for both long and short term medication, although blanket consent is sought when children first start with the childminder for emergency situations, such as babies teething. Both the childminder and the assistant have first aid certificates and both ensure that these are updated every three years. Accidents are fully recorded and shared effectively with parents for continuity of care.

Children's healthy eating and drinking is highly promoted. Children have access to fruit throughout the day as well as drinking water in appropriate vessels for their stage of development. Children are provided with freshly cooked meals consisting of fresh vegetables. Children learn to eat socially with other children, enticing them to complete their meals. Babies meals are carefully prepared, following parents' guidelines and preferences, therefore meeting children's dietary needs. Babies feeds are hygienically prepared within the childminder's house ensuring that they are given the appropriate formula and correct amount of feed.

Children have plentiful opportunities for fresh air and exercise promoting their overall physical wellbeing. Children access the garden allowing free flow independent play. Children regularly visit the local park and use large equipment to extend their physical skills and movement. The childminder carefully reads the children's physical signs of tiredness and ensures they have plenty of rest during their day with her.

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a thoroughly checked, safe and secure environment. Daily effective risk assessments are carried out to ensure children can play freely and independently, in safe accessible areas of the house. Children are not able to leave the premises unattended due to good security measures within the house and in the garden.

The toys and equipment that children use and play with are regularly checked and cleaned to ensure that their safe use and children's safety is always promoted.

Children learn about how to keep themselves safe through clear explanations within the house and when out with the childminder. Good measures are in place regarding fire safety. A clear procedure is in place following guidance from fire safety officers, to ensure children are evacuated safely from the building. Children become aware of road safety through clear explanations, planned activities and practical demonstration when out and about with the childminder and the assistant.

The childminder has a good awareness of child protection issues and how to promote safeguarding procedures for children. She has access to plentiful information on who to contact for support and the appropriate procedures to follow. She is fully aware of the types and signs of abuse due to attending regular child protection training.

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

The provision is good.

Children have access to an excellent range of activities and resources promoting all areas of the development. Children are encouraged to make choices for themselves, such as what to play with and where to play. In fine weather, the doors to the garden are always open to encourage children to use both the indoor and outdoor environments for play. Babies receive excellent support in their play and development. The childminder and her assistant are very aware of how to encourage new skills, such as placing toys just out of the baby's reach to encourage them to balance, sit and eventually move to reach the toys. Good use is made of resources and equipment to ensure young babies are supported and given sufficient space for play. The childminder is quick to recognise children's achievements, particularly when they first start in her care. Parents receive comprehensive information about their child's day within the contact book and through verbal feedback. However, the childminder does not use her knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework and pre-school children's development to monitor and record children's progress to enable the future planning of children's next steps. The children's individual care needs are promoted well due to the childminder and her assistant's vigilant observations of when children become tired, offering them quiet story times and positively sharing experiences through children's television.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individuality is celebrated through a well written mission statement and the positive use of children's details. Children have access to a good range of resources that portrays positive images of today's society, helping children to understand about people's differences.

The childminder is very willing to care for children with learning difficulties and /or disabilities. She has past experiences of offering care to children with severe medical conditions and uses her nursing skills and experiences to competently meet their complex needs.

The childminder uses very positive behaviour management strategies to praise children's achievements and good behaviour, building their confidence and self-esteem. Children learn the difference between right and wrong and are constantly heard using good manners. Strategies are discussed openly with parents to ensure consistent appropriate approaches are used towards challenging and changing behaviour.

The partnership with parents is good, therefore promoting consistent care for children. Parents have access to comprehensive information about the childminder's service including policies and procedures. Amongst these is a complaint procedure for parents to follow if they have any concerns about the care of their children, including details of the regulatory body. The childminder ensures good communication between herself and the parents, including a contact book and verbal daily feedback. The childminder and her assistant carry out an annual survey to evaluate the effectiveness of their service and the quality of child care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a childminder and her assistant who hold the relevant checks and certificates to allow unsupervised access to children. The parents give consent for the assistant to care for the children without the childminder's supervision.

Children are very happy and confident in the childminder's care. She is very aware of their routine and effectively plans the day around their daily needs, such as sleeping and eating. Both the childminder and the assistant regularly attend additional training to constantly improve their child care practice. Records of children's attendance are recorded accurately with the time of arrival and departure, although they are not always recorded at the time that children arrive and leave the childminder's care.

Children's details and records are kept confidential, safe and secure. The childminder ensures that they are locked away and are not accessible to unauthorised people. Therefore children's welfare is promoted well.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was given one recommendation to improve the quality of child care. The childminder now has a comprehensive portfolio with additional policies and procedures for parents information. This includes statement on behaviour management, partnerships with parents, complaints and confidentiality. The childminder has also produced a mission statement for parents.

## **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 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):

- consider introducing a system to record and monitor children's achievements using the Birth to three matters framework

- ensure children's attendance is consistently recorded

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)