

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	126194
<b>Inspection date</b>	16 October 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Tracy Larnach
<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?

This childminder has been registered since 1992. She lives with her husband and four children in Cliftonville, Kent. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. The garden is currently out of use; however, the childminder regularly takes the children to the local park. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children on a regular basis. She walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends the local parent and toddler groups.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean home where toys and equipment are kept clean and sanitary for the children's play; for example, all toys are sorted out and washed at the end of each week. Children learn about good hygiene practice through the daily routine; for example, they regularly wash their hands to help prevent the spread of infection and they regularly brush their teeth. Children are unable to be in the childminder's care if they are ill which helps to minimise the spread germs. The childminder has a current first aid certificate so she is able to respond to

children quickly should they have an accident. Parental permission for the seeking of emergency medical advice and treatment is sought ; however, one is currently missing. Accident and medicine records are kept appropriately. Parents sign to acknowledge all accidents; as a result, they can care for their children appropriately on their arrival home.

Children enjoy visits to the local park and outings in the local community. They can move freely in the childminder's home as there is a large space for their play. The childminder has toys such as pushchairs and walkers so children can push and pull and use their bodies, to practise their skills for their large muscle development. Parents provide all the food so they know their children remain nourished. Children are provided with plenty of water during the day to keep them hydrated. Children's individual schedules are respected by the childminder which means they can sleep when they wish. Arrangements for sleeping are discussed with the parents to ensure continuity of care. This contributes to the children's well-being.

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

The provision is good.

Children are safe in the childminder's home as she has undertaken an informal risk assessment; for example, there are locks on the kitchen cupboards and a stair gate. Toys are safe, clean and well maintained enabling children to play safely. The childminder ensures toys and craft items with small pieces are stored out of reach for the younger children's safety. Children learn about safety as the childminder talks to them about sitting on their bottoms at the table so they do not fall and she encourages them to tidy the toys away, so they do not become tripping hazards. The childminder knows the recommendations for sleeping babies so they are protected as she puts them down to sleep. Children's welfare is protected as there are effective procedures for their safe arrival and collection. The childminder knows what to do to safeguard children should she suspect abuse and keeps up-to-date information on hand ,to refer to should the need arise. She has an informal fire evacuation plan and smoke alarms installed in her home for the children's safety. She discusses fire evacuation with the older children so they know what to expect and would not be frightened should there be a fire. The childminder has procedures in place for outings; for example, drinks, spare clothes and emergency contact details are taken to ensure children will be cared for appropriately should there be an emergency.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy in the childminder's care. There is a variety of toys and equipment for them to select from. The childminder has reviewed the Birth to three matters framework to ensure she is promoting positive outcomes for the younger children and older children have access to a range of developmentally appropriate activities. Children greet each other with enthusiasm becoming social as they enjoy each others company. Their mathematical thinking is promoted as they build with bricks, complete puzzles and hear mathematical language; for example, a child placed a number of puzzles in a line as he completed them, jumping up and down with excitement at his creation. The childminder said, 'that's a 'long line, you have one more puzzle to do.'

A range of books are available for the children to select from. They enjoy stories and develop a love of books as they learn that print carries meaning. The childminder talks and listens to the children asking questions to make them think. Children enjoy mark making which develops their fine motor skills. They become creative as they are able to experiment with paint, chalk,

glue and explore water and sand; for example, children made pictures with the leaves they had collected the previous day. Children investigate, learning how things work as they play; for example, children enjoyed experimenting with musical toys resetting them to play every few minutes, delighted as the music played over and over again. Children imagination develops as they role play, dress up or pretend with the small world toys. Children like simple games and happily interact with the childminder learning about taking turns.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are content in the childminder's care. There is a settling in procedure which includes short visits which helps children to settle well. Children enjoy the childminder's company and readily approach her to play; for example, they play next to each other, the childminder encouraging children's independence but ensuring she is readily available to offer support should they need it. Children are well behaved as the childminder encourages appropriate behaviour with lots of praise. This promotes the children's self-esteem. If children exhibit inappropriate behaviour the childminder talks to them or they are redirected if necessary.

Children learn about the local community as they go out for walks to the library, park, beach and shops and engage in activities such as collecting leaves. Children are taught to accept differences through discussion as the childminder is a positive role model. Children's record forms detail any special requirements to enable the childminder to cater for their individual needs. The childminder has cared for children who speak English as an additional language and ensures she learns special words to help them settle and offer them comfort. She also shows an interest in Makaton signing to aid children's communication.

The childminder works closely with the parents. She obtains children's routines in writing and updates these through ongoing discussion. She talks to the parents daily asking questions and discussing in detail their children's day. This ensures she is providing continuity of care. Cards and letters of recommendation indicate parents are pleased with her care. Contracts are in place outlining business details to ensure the childminder is providing the care parent's wish. However, she does not provide any policies or procedures in writing for the parents information and parent's written permissions has not been sought for taking the children on outings. She is aware of the requirements regarding complaints; however, the parent poster giving the regulator's number is not displayed so parents can easily see it.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She uses all of her downstairs space and children can move freely and safely in her home. Children are at home in her care and are confident to play. The daily routine is organised to include a range of activities based on children's interests and needs. The required documentation for the safe and effective management of the setting and for the welfare and care of children is maintained and stored securely; however, the childminder has no written policies or procedures and has not sought written parental permissions for certain aspects of her service. A diary is used to record the children's attendance and the times of arrival and departure are accurately recorded, showing that the childminder complies with her conditions of numbers. Her certificate of registration is displayed and public liability insurance has been purchased. However; the childminder has not yet obtained checks to show that all of the adults in her home are suitable

to be around children and although children are never left unattended this is a requirement. The childminder has not attended any recent training but keeps her knowledge up to date by reading the information she is sent; for example, child protection information and the Birth to three matters framework.

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

At the last inspection there were two recommendations made. These were to ensure that persons over the age of 16 years living or regularly present in the household when children are being minded undergo checks including a criminal records check and to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

Since the last inspection there has been a delay in obtaining the appropriate checks due to mistakes on the paperwork and these checks are only now being carried out. As a result, this remains a recommendation of this inspection. Permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment is routinely sought; however, one was missing on the day of inspection. The childminder is aware to request this again to ensure she can act quickly in the case of a serious accident. This is also included in the recommendations from this inspection.

### **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 written parental permission is obtained for all children to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and for taking children on outings
- produce written policies to keep parents informed; for example, for the complaints procedure
- ensure that persons over the age of 16 years living or regularly present in the household when children are being minded undergo checks including a criminal records check.

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)