

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY252327
<b>Inspection date</b>	19 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Margaret, Ann Sandfield
<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 outstanding. 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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children in a house in Ashford, Kent. The childminder works with another childminder. Excluding the office, the whole of the ground floor of the property and the first floor master bedroom. and playroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children. When working with a co-childminder she can care for a maximum of six children at any one time. They are currently minding four children. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local childminding group, a baby rhyme time session at the library and tumble time. The family has two cats.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and Kent Childminding Network. She is an accredited childminder.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely well nourished because the childminder has a very good knowledge of nutrition and plans a varied menu for the children, which is both healthy and appetising. For example, at snack time they had a very wide selection of fresh fruit and after a lunch of nutritional sandwich fillings of their choice using healthy brown bread and accompanied by crudities, they are given fruit yoghurts. Children have this message re-enforced through displays of 'healthy eating' posters and again when they explore books on foods that promote their good health. Children help themselves to drinks of water whenever they are thirsty as they have individual water containers. They take their containers out with them in the garden and on outings. The childminder has a sample menu of a range of nutritional main meals which she is happy to prepare for children, including dinners, such as cottage pie and fresh vegetables. Children have their dietary needs met according to their needs and their parent's wishes. Children also sleep according to their needs and home routines in clean surroundings, because the childminder has two travel cots to use and she always gives children their own sheets.

Children consistently undertake excellent hygienic routines when they go to wash their hands before eating food and having drinks. They also do this thoroughly after going to the toilet or playing in the garden as the childminder supervises and advises them. Individual towels are provided so that all children protected from cross infection. Children's health is further promoted as they learn good dental hygiene, when they routinely brush their teeth after meals. The childminder makes this a fun time, actively encouraging children by singing songs to them about brushing teeth and showing them the correct teeth brushing actions and as a result, children enthusiastically join in.

Children take part in regular energetic physical activity both indoors and outside in the garden several times a day. Energetic routines form an integrated part of their every day play and are timetabled into the routines. They also have regular outings when they exercise on large apparatus, for example in parks and at soft play centres. The childminder is aware of regulations and keeps a signed record of all accidents to children in her care; she also ensures that parents give signed instructions regarding any medicines that they bring for their children.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's well-being is highly valued as the childminder places a great deal of emphasis on safeguarding and promoting their safety. This she does extremely effectively. The childminder ensures that children are welcomed into secure, child-friendly and safe premises, which is well ventilated and kept at a suitable temperature. The children have free access to the spacious lounge, dining room, downstairs cloakroom and hallway. They also have use of a first floor playroom furnished with very good quality child sized tables and chairs for more structured play. Children can safely and independently take themselves off to the toilet from the playroom as it has its own adjacent toilet facility. The children can sleep safely in a cot in the main first floor bedroom as the childminder provides an intercom facility so that children can be monitored whilst asleep. This monitor is checked to ensure its effectiveness when each child is settled for their rest time, which helps to safeguard babies and children whilst they are sleeping. Children are helped to avoid accidental injury as all areas of the house used for childminding are skilfully organised and thoughtfully arranged. She systematically monitors children's play throughout

the session to ensure that they cannot come to any harm. This is helped by the fact that she works with another childminder. For instance, when one of them is preparing snacks or drinks the other childminder attends to the children. She ensures comprehensive safety precautions are taken in the garden as well as in the house, such as risk assessing both the indoor and outdoor area prior to children playing there. The childminder and co-childminder continue to follow sound routines to protect children's safety whilst outside. For example, the childminder places herself in a position so as to be able to observe all the children during the outdoor sessions. This enables the co-childminder to take a child indoors to the toilet, whilst allowing all of the remaining children to be clearly supervised, minimising any risks to their safety. In the summer months she provides an awning and 'sail' to shade the children's outdoor play area, so that the strong rays of the sun cannot harm them. Children play on this safe large fully fenced decking area several times during the day. Throughout the session children have free access to an excellent range of very good quality, age-appropriate, well maintained toys and resources, both indoors and outdoors.

There are excellent routines in place to protect children from harm. The childminder prepares a comprehensive evacuation plan so that children are protected in case of fire, which children are familiar with as they regularly practise it. The childminder keeps her smoke alarms working well as she checks them regularly and there is a carbon monoxide detector by the boiler. Children are effectively safeguarded because the childminder clearly understands her role in child protection and is fully aware of the procedures to follow should a concern arise. Visitors are not encouraged during childminding hours. However, there is a precise, comprehensive format to record all visitors to the house, which is kept by the front door. All visitors' identity is thoroughly examined.

The childminder has comprehensive routines that she follows to ensure the safety of all children in her care whilst on outings. For example, the smallest children go in buggies and she links hands or uses reins with the other children. The childminder and co-childminder usually go out together. Children are beginning to learn how to keep themselves safe as they follow well established routines when crossing the road. They are familiar with these routines as they instantly know what to do saying, 'look left and right'. One child clearly understood the importance of these routines as they went on to say, 'daddy didn't do it and I told him and he does it now!' Their well-being is further supported as parents provide relevant signed permissions, informing them of all relevant circumstances. One of these permissions is in relationship to emergency medical treatment. There are clear records of any concerns, incidents or accidents whether occurring at the childminder's or elsewhere.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children experience a rich range of interesting activities indoors and out as the childminder is extremely skilled at planning a broad range of stimulating and challenging activities. Children have use of the ground floor area for floor play and quieter activities, as well as a first floor playroom. This is furnished to a high standard with very good quality child sized tables and chairs for more structured play, such as craft and creative play. Here they also have plenty of good opportunities for role play in the home corner, as well as opportunities to choose from a well presented range of imaginative, multi-cultural dressing up clothes. The childminder knows the children very well and activities are based on children's interests and their stages of development, which encourages them to build on their existing skills and to develop new skills. They gain a great deal from the play materials and well presented books, because the childminder and co-childminder play with them throughout their time at the setting. For example, they play

games together which help children learn to recognise numbers and develop problem solving skills, as well as developing social skills by learning to take turns and to share. They discuss pictures and stories as they share attractively presented books. The childminder constantly talks about what they are doing and as a result children's language development is being extended well. Children are extremely confident, friendly and at ease.

Children develop close, affectionate relationships with the childminder, co-childminder and with each other, and talk expressively and politely to both familiar and unfamiliar adults. The childminder interacts with them at their level, so that they feel secure and confidently communicate their opinions and ideas. She encourages them to think and explore these ideas, praising them and giving them appropriate prompts. As a result, children respond excitedly to the childminder's enthusiasm and motivation. Throughout their time with the childminder children participate in stimulating activities that meet their individual needs and wants effectively.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are always welcomed into a very homely and extremely happy environment, settling immediately into the very familiar routines and layout. This is very well supported by displays of their work and individual name labelled pegs, where they can hang their own coat as they arrive, giving them a sense of belonging. The childminder establishes clear and realistic boundaries to help children learn to work harmoniously with others. They quickly learn to respond to appropriate expectations for their behaviour, because the childminder constantly praises them. If children's behaviour is inappropriate then she responds gently by talking to them and dealing with the situation calmly as it arises, according to their age and understanding. As a result, children play together well, sharing and taking turns.

All children are highly valued, respected and included by the childminder who treats them with equal concern and as a consequence children develop good self esteem. The atmosphere remains calm throughout. She puts her equal opportunities policy into practice by helping children appreciate each other's similarities and differences, and making them feel good about themselves. For example, she encourages children to talk about their own and other children's different likes and dislikes in food choices. All children are included and integrate well because the childminder is clear about how to help them reach their full potential. She believes that 'family customs and beliefs about dietary requirements, dress code, hair and skin care, help required with toilet and washing are respected'. The childminder provides activities and some excellent resources that value the different cultures, as well as celebrating a wide range of multi-cultural festivals. As a result, children learn about equality and justice through their play.

Children have their specific needs met by the childminder who works in very close partnership with parents in order to provide a consistent approach and the best possible care for every child. For example, the childminder ensures that she is always up-to-date with any relevant information that helps children to progress by liaising very closely with parents. The childminder works co-operatively with parents sharing information, informally verbally on a daily basis and formally in writing by providing contact books. The childminder provides a comprehensive service statement and effective policies and procedures, enabling parents to be very clear about the standard and type of care their children are receiving. All relevant permissions are given, supporting the effective care their children receive. The childminder has given a great deal of thought to adapting toys and resources to help children with additional needs to be as independent as possible. She spoke about finding out as much as possible about any specific

conditions and how to help them. She also spoke enthusiastically about adapting as much as possible of her home so all children could join in and 'be as much a part of the family as they can'. Parents are extremely pleased that their children are so happy at the setting, writing excellent references, which clearly state their pleasure with the service they and their children receive.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit because the childminder works closely with her mother, who is a registered childminder. The childminder has overall responsibility for the childminding practice. Her co-childminder works in a supportive role. The childminder and co-childminder understand the importance of adhering to regulations so that children receive the best care possible. Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder and co-childminder, which ensures that anyone living on the premises has clear checks and follows effective procedures when there are visitors. Comprehensive records, policies and procedures are devised by the childminder, who takes overall responsibility for maintaining them. They effectively promote the safe and efficient management of the provision. The childminder works extremely effectively with parents and ensures that all her documentation is up-to-date and relevant. She also ensures parents acknowledge responsibility for their children by giving relevant signed permissions and informing them of all relevant circumstances. As a result, children's well-being and security are well maintained because the childminder keeps her records efficiently and confidentially. Records are formally reviewed at six monthly intervals. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Children are experiencing a very rich range of interesting activities indoors and outdoors as the childminder is skilled at planning a broad range of stimulating and challenging activities, based on children's interests and their stages of development. Children are able to move around extremely confidently, as they are clear about the different areas they can use for different types of play and activities. The childminder positively supports children's learning and development by organising the setting so that they receive consistent care and attention. As a result, children are very settled, happy and very much 'at home'. Children's development and learning are enhanced by the childminder who has many years experience of caring for children. She keeps abreast of good childcare practices by regularly updating her knowledge and understanding, attending a variety of training courses.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The childminder has obtained written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. She has developed a wide range of good quality toys and resources and has attended a course supporting the care and development of very young children.

## **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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)