



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	125266
<b>Inspection date</b>	08 September 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Annie Williams
<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 1988. She lives with her husband. They live in a house in Kent. The house is situated within walking distance of shops, schools and a park. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

She is registered to provide care for 6 children under 8 years, of these, not more than 3 may be under 5 years, and of these, not more than 1 may be under 1 year. The childminder works with an assistant and during these times is registered for 6 children under 5 years and of these 2 may be under 1 year. At present, the

childminder cares for 12 children; of these, 2 children are over 8 years.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and has a NVQ 3 in childcare and education.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean environment. They learn about the importance of personal hygiene through established effective routines introduced by the childminder. For example, children routinely wash their hands after visiting the toilet and each child has an individual towel for hand-drying. In addition effective hygiene practices by the childminder such as wearing gloves for nappy changes helps to stop the spread of infection. The sick child policy, a current first aid certificate and clear procedures for administering medication help the childminder act in the best interest of the children if they have an accident or become ill.

Children's dietary requirements are respected and they receive healthy snacks during the day. For example, they choose from carrot and apple. These times are a social occasion when all the children sit together on child size chairs around a small table. Drinking water is always available to the children because the childminder ensures that their cups are replenished. Consequently children are kept hydrated.

Children are well protected from the effects of the sun because the childminder has established familiar procedures for applying sun cream and encouraging children to wear hats; children know why they need to wear hats and sun cream.

The lounge opens onto the garden and children enjoy the benefits of fresh air and exercise on a daily basis. The garden is small and the range of toys lack challenge for the more able and older children. The childminder recognises this and compensates by taking the older children to the nearby play park on the way from school. Babies learn to develop control of their bodies. For example, they push around wheeled toys in the garden and learn to manoeuvre them with the gentle assistance of the childminder.

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

The provision is good.

The premises are secure. As a result, children are protected from unwanted visitors and are unable to leave the premises unsupervised. Effective procedures for the safe arrival and collection of children and the childminder's knowledge and understanding of recommendations for sleeping babies helps to safe guard children's welfare.

Procedures for developing knowledge and understanding of child protection issues are less secure. Consequently, the childminder is insecure about some areas of child protection to help her act in the best interest of a child should an incident occur. Toys

and equipment are clean and in good condition because the childminder checks and cleans them regularly. Consequently, children are able to play safely.

Excellent procedures for evacuating the building are established by the childminder. For example a fire blanket, regularly checked smoke alarms, a clear evacuation procedure and practice with the children helps to keep them safe if a fire should occur or they need to evacuate the property. In addition children learn about fire safety through learning about techniques such as drop and roll and listening to the story of the firefly.

Procedures for outings contribute to children's safety; children's emergency contact details are taken on outings by the childminder along with copies of parents permission for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

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

The provision is good.

Children are clearly happy in the care of the childminder and also have a positive relationship with her assistant. Story time is a regular feature of the routine; children eagerly ask for their favourite stories to be read by the childminder. As a result, children are developing a love of books. Children enjoy a range of play opportunities, such as sand play in the garden, water play and collage. Useful questioning techniques and descriptive language used by the childminder further develop children's language skills.

Children's mathematical development is promoted during play. For example, they talk about different sizes of the shells they are using and carrots that they eat at snack time.

Children are encouraged to develop their creativity as they explore different media such as glue and paint. Photographs show children spreading biscuits with icing, using different collage materials, cooking, chalking and junk modelling. As a result children have many opportunities for creativity and working together. School age children are set challenges each week related to craft. Past challenges include space mobiles, a sea scape or making objects of their choice from the materials provided.

Toys and resources are set out by the childminder. As a result, children are unable to freely and independently self select from the full range of toys available.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the care of the childminder. They behave well in response to the childminder's expectations of them. For example, they are asked to walk so that they don't bump into the baby. Children are kind to each other because the childminder is a positive role model and understands behaviour management. They share, take turns and help each other. For example, older children help the younger ones in their play, such as winding up a toy to make the track spin round.

Gentle reminders from the childminder and her assistant remind the children to say please and thank you. As a result, children are learning good manners. They learn to take care of the environment as they water the runner beans and flowers in the garden and help to tidy toys away indoors.

All children are welcomed into the setting. Children's personal cultures are acknowledged by the childminder who uses a child information sheet to gather information about them. There is a satisfactory range of resources that reflect positive images of ethnicity such as books, special needs puzzles and dolls to help children find out about differences in our society. With the exception of school runs, outings are infrequent. Consequently, children receive less opportunity to explore the wider world and local community.

Partnership with parents is good. Parents are well informed of the childminding service and the care provided for their children because the childminder maintains contact books, has produced policies and seeks parents' written permission for the necessary aspects of her service, such as permission to transport children in a vehicle and to apply sun cream. As a result, children are cared for according to parents' wishes.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. The daily routine is organised to include quiet times, active times, mealtimes and play times. As a result, children are secure and settled in the childminder's care. With the exception of the attendance register, all the required documentation for safe and efficient management of the setting is maintained effectively and confidentially. As a result, children's welfare and care is promoted. In addition the childminder has a first aid certificate, her registration certificate and a complaints policy to inform parents of her service.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Following the last inspection the Inspector made two recommendations. These were to; develop planning of activities and obtain parents written permission to transport children in a vehicle. The childminder has tried to do planning but found this to be difficult at times because of the differences of children. This area continues to evolve. Parents' written permission to transport children in a vehicle is now in place.

## **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 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):

- provide more challenging activities in gross motor play
- further develop knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures
- provide more opportunities for children to find out about the local and wider world.

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