



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	125302
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 August 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Freeda Wildon
<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 was registered in 1994. She lives with her husband and two children aged four and seven in St. Nicholas, Kent. The whole ground floor 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five and two children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local carer/toddler group. The family has two cats.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

The children enjoy a wide range of activities which promote their good health. Regular visits to the local park, walking to and from school and playing in the childminder's garden help to promote their coordination and physical skills. The children are cared for in a clean home. They are learning the importance of good hygiene and personal care through daily routines such as hand washing before meals and after playing in the garden. They are beginning to develop an understanding of why hand washing is important. For example, they understand that it stops the spread of germs. Children enjoy sociable snack and meal times sitting at the table talking about the food they eat. They receive a nutritious and balanced diet which is varied and enjoyed by all of the children. They particularly enjoy fruit and are developing an awareness of healthy eating. An informal sick children's policy excludes children who are infectious and the childminder acts in the best interest of the child when he becomes ill. However, her first aid training is not up-to-date, as a result this may not contribute to the children's wellbeing should an emergency occur.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home where risks are identified and minimised and kept safe and free from harm. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. They know their boundaries for example that when they are walking to and from school they must stay close by the childminder. They also understand the importance of keeping safe when playing in the garden such as only one person at a time on the trampoline. Children's welfare and safety are important to the childminder. She has a good knowledge of child protection. She has attended child protection training and knows where to seek advice if she has concerns about a child. A written emergency plan that is shared with parents and practised with the children contributes to children's safety.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are well-settled and confident within the surroundings of the childminder's home. They have developed good relationships as they play harmoniously together and alongside each other. There is a wide range of play equipment available. However, they are not organised by the childminder to allow the children free choice, as most of the equipment is stored in the cellar. As a result children cannot see what is available and make an informed choice. They ask for the toys and when they have their choice they are engrossed and enjoy the activity. Older children are immersed in the scoubidou frenzy which held their concentration and kept them entertained for hours. They are gently assisted by the childminder who consistently praises the children when they play. As a result children are confident and developing good levels of self-esteem. Children are encouraged to engage in pretend play, for example using the tents in the garden as their home and leaving and returning from work. They act out home life such

as having breakfast before they leave the home for work. Older child repaired the home with a screwdriver. Children are learning to be independent in personal care, for example taking themselves to the toilet and visiting the local shops and making small purchases with the childminder's support.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well behaved and settled in the care of the childminder because the childminder has introduced a settling-in program that consists of short visits prior to children being left in her care. The childminder manages the children's behaviour positively and consistently and according to the child's level of understanding and maturity. They respond positively to gentle reminders from the childminder, for example taking turns on the trampoline. Children find out about the wider world through play. They are encouraged to try different foods and to learn about other cultures through books and puzzles. They find out about the local community through visits to the park, shops, seaside and meeting other children at the local playgroup. Effective communication with parents helps the childminder provide consistent care for the children, for example, daily exchange of information, the displayed registration certificate and poster informing them of Ofsted's role.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The routine is organised by the childminder to include quiet times, rest, active times and meal times. As a result children are secure and confident. The space within the setting is used well and children can move around safely and freely. However children do not have free access to the available resources, as a result they do not independently self-select toys. A folder of policies provided by the childminder, helps to inform parents of the childminding service. Most required documentation for the effective management of the setting and to promote the care and welfare of children is in place and contributes to positive outcomes for children. They are stored securely to maintain confidentiality. The provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

Since the last inspection, the childminder has made improvements on administration of medicines. She follows current guidance for good practice in the administration of medication, for example, she only gives medication supplied by the parents. The childminder keeps an accurate record of children's attendance. She records times of arrival and departure of the children. Business car insurance is in place. These actions contribute to children's safety and well-being.

### **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):

- complete a first aid course which includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- organise the resources so that children can self-select and access them easily

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)