

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY260733
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 September 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Sue Taylor
<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 2003. She lives with her husband in Staplehurst, Kent. The whole house, excluding the main bedroom, is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder has no pets.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group, takes children to the local library and the local park.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding seven children, most of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder is also registered to work with an assistant.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a very clean and well-maintained home. There is good natural light. The daily routines ensure good hygiene standards are in place. For example, the surfaces

are wiped down throughout the day, with antibacterial spray and particular attention given to food preparation and eating areas. Children wash their hands before eating and have easy access to the toilet; this allows older children to gain independence. There is only one shared towel, washed daily, for hand drying. This is less effective against the risk of cross infection. Procedures for the care of sick and injured children are fully discussed with parents, ensuring children's welfare is given priority.

The childminder and her assistant provide healthy and nutritious meals for children. The menus are on display for parents to see, and follow a four week rota. Fresh ingredients are used in the cooking of a balanced meal at teatime. Children eat together at the table and enjoy the social occasion. Drinking water is available for them to access, throughout the day. This enables them to control their own thirst needs. A snack of fruit and a lunch time meal of a good quality sandwich and fruit, help keep children healthy.

Children have good opportunities for play in the fresh air. They use the garden regularly and visit local parks. Children are encouraged to walk when out and about. The childminder promotes their hand-eye coordination with resources and activities. The warm and caring relationships children have, with the childminder and her assistant, supports their emotional well-being.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder minimises risks throughout the house, to allow children to explore the environment safely. She knows the children well and adapts safety precautions to meet their needs. The ground floor is organised to allow children to make best use of the space. Good quality resources and toys are stored at a low level. Being in clear boxes enables children to make easy, safe choices about their play. The garden is decked throughout and provides a safe place for outdoor play.

The childminder has a written emergency procedure that helps assure children's safety. Children learn how to keep themselves safe, with guidance from the childminder, alongside effective and supportive supervision. For example, she teaches children how to cross roads safely and gives clear explanations. She has a valid first aid certificate. This helps her deal with children's accidents and injuries, in line with current practices.

A written policy, relating to child protection, informs parents of the childminder's role in protecting children. She has relevant guidance and has had some training in the past. The childminder has a good understanding and knows how to act if she has a concern about a child in her care, helping to keep children safe from harm.

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

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into the child orientated play environment. They make easy choices from the broad range of age appropriate play materials. For example, a good selection of books, available at low level, enables children to make independent choices. Visits to places such as the library, the soft play centre or the park provide fun and help develop skills. A child's day includes quiet and active play, with an emphasis on children learning through play.

Children are very confident and settled. They enjoy being with the childminder and assistant, who support them well as they play. For example, children enjoy a game together, taking turns

and clapping the winner. The childminder responds well to children. Children's language development is positively encouraged by the childminder, who spends time talking with children and listening to what they have to say. She obtains written detail from some parents about home routines, helping to provide consistent care.

During art and craft activities children use their own ideas and their imagination is promoted with resources, such as small world play and dressing up. Children spend good levels of time concentrating as they play, happily chatting to themselves and others as they develop their own imaginative play. The outdoor area is used well and children enjoy the good selection of toys that include space hoppers, ride on toys, a sand pit and a playhouse.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a positive attitude towards equal opportunities, ensuring children are valued for who they are. Children feel welcomed in the childminder's home, gaining a sense of belonging. With their individual needs acknowledged and met, children develop positive self-esteem. The childminder has some resources for children to access that show positive images of other cultures. This helps children's growing awareness of the wider world. However, those that reflect disability are limited.

Children benefit from lots of praise and encouragement. Children learn what behaviour is acceptable and behave very well. The childminder sets clear and consistent boundaries. Children learn to take turns, share toys and help tidy up.

Contact books, between the childminder and parent, provide good detail about a child's day. Parents receive good written information about the childminder and her practices. For example, they have information about the complaints procedure and behaviour management. Positive relationships that develop with parents, help children feel secure.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The children benefit from a safe environment and well-organised day. The good play space and broad range of resources meets children's needs effectively. Good supervision by the childminder allows children to explore the environment safely and with enjoyment, making choices about their play. They receive very good adult support and attention to help them feel secure, happy and settled.

The childminder obtains a number of relevant written consents, such as for outings and the use of sun cream. However, written consent for emergency medical treatment or advice is not available for all children. All other required paperwork and documentation is in place. It is well organised and informative ensuring that children are cared for according to their needs. The register records children's attendance and the childminder is aware that this is completed daily, as children arrive and depart. There is no clear system in place to record when the assistant is present.

Written information is shared with parents and thought has been put into the detail provided. This gives parents a good understanding of how the childminder works and about the care their child receives. The childminder ensures that assistants are suitable and have completed the

required checks. 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 asked to investigate the advisability of parents providing all medicines for their children. This was in relation to the childminder giving Calpol, that was purchased by herself, to children. Parents have given written consent and this occurs on very rare occasions. The childminder ensures she maintains a record and this is countersigned by parents. This ensures they are fully aware of any medication their child may have had.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection there has been one complaint that required the provider to take action in order to meet the National Standards. Following an unannounced visit in October 2006 it was found that the childminder was caring for more children aged under 5 years than her registration allowed. This was a breach against National Standard 2: Organisation. The childminder took steps to ensure that her conditions of registration are complied with all times. The provider remained qualified for registration.

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 improvements to the hand drying process to help prevent cross contamination
- ensure written consent from parents for emergency medical treatment or advice is in place for all children
- ensure there is clear detail of when an assistant is present and working with the children

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)