

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	160772
<b>Inspection date</b>	11 September 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Janette Mary White

<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?

The childminder was registered in 2001. She lives with her husband and three school aged children in Rainham, Gillingham, Kent. All areas of the property are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding six. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a cat.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. However, the childminder does not use gloves when changing children's nappies. She wipes the changing mat before and after nappy changes. Children are beginning to understand the importance of why they must wash their hands. For example, the childminder actively encourages children to use tissues to wipe their nose. Children use soap from the dispenser and dry their hands on

individual paper towels. They are cared for in a warm homely environment where they have access to drinks at all times and are encouraged to make healthy choices regarding the food they eat. The childminder works effectively together with the parents to ensure healthy options are promoted. Children's individual dietary needs are discussed and recorded. Children enjoy a broad range of activities which contribute to their good health. There are opportunities for them to take part in outdoor activities, such as taking older children to and from school or playing in the local park. They are becoming increasingly aware of the way activity affects their bodies and know when they need a drink or a rest. First aid equipment is easily accessible and the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. The childminder maintains records on accidents and there are systems in place to record medication and existing injuries. There is written permission to seek emergency treatment and advice on behalf of the child.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder ensures there are effective procedures for the welfare and safety of the children. These include an emergency evacuation plan which is discussed with the children. However, this escape plan does not promote younger children's understanding, such as using words and pictures. Children are cared for in a safe, secure and stimulating environment where risks are consistently assessed. For example, the laminated flooring is swept and washed each morning. There is space for children to move around and play freely within safe boundaries. Young children are beginning to develop an awareness of how to keep themselves safe. The childminder helps them to understand why certain procedures are necessary, such as waiting for the childminder rather than going into the garden alone. Children do not have daily opportunities to play in the garden. However, some activities are taken into the garden during fine weather, such as water play. The childminder gives consideration to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe outside the home. Children are beginning to understand why they must stop, look and listen for traffic. Reins are used for younger children and they are encouraged to hold on to the buggy when crossing roads. There is a child protection policy and the childminder has a competent understanding of child protection issues and an effective understanding of what action to take on behalf of a child.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle well and are becoming confident in the childminder's home. The childminder is developing the use of Birth to three matters framework to promote younger children's development and learning. Younger children are enthusiastic when making decisions to choose resources, such as dominoes or fuzzy felts. However, toys stored in boxes are not labelled with words and pictures to aid the children's independent choice. Children have some opportunities to play with basic resources to promote equality of opportunity. Through discussion with the childminder she describes how older children enjoy time when they can relax or be active in accordance with their needs and interests. For example, older children have opportunities to play upstairs or take part in organised art and craft activities. Children become independent as they choose between a variety of books, activities and toys. For example, children ask the childminder to read a story. They benefit from close contact with the childminder because she spends time talking and playing with them. They are beginning to show a good sense of wellbeing and the childminder praises them for their achievements, such as 'well done for helping to put the toys in the box'. Younger children have some opportunities to be creative. They show good levels of curiosity and imagination as they enthusiastically play with the road

and train track. Creative opportunities are organised for the older children, such as cooking or drawing.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children demonstrate a sense of belonging. They are acknowledged and affirmed by the childminder. Not all the information to enable appropriate care is recorded for all children, such as religion and language spoken. Children are respected as individuals and treated with equal concern by the childminder. They feel secure and benefit from consistency of care, which is achieved by the childminder and parents working together. The childminder explains and provides a complaints policy for parents. She has a sound understanding of the procedures, but is less familiar with the process. There is a system to record complaints and she now has a system to maintain a summary for parents. Children's information is generally kept confidential. However, some information has not been kept confidential, such as contact numbers. There is written permission for children to be transported in a vehicle. Children are only released into the care of authorised adults and there is a procedure in place for emergencies. Younger children are beginning to learn about the boundaries and house rules. However, these are not reflected in pictures and words to support children's self help skills. The childminder has a general awareness of children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has not ensured that persons over the age of 16 living in the household have the relevant checks. As a result, appropriate checks to ensure the safety of children have not been completed. This is a breach of regulation. However, the childminder will take appropriate action to address this point. Children are comfortable, settled and feel secure. They are at ease with the childminder and their surroundings. As a result, they make themselves at home and ask for what they need. The childminder has experience of working with children of differing ages and abilities. The registration certificate is displayed. The register contains details of the hours of attendance for children and the childminder records when visitors are present. Records are easily accessible and ready for inspection and the childminder is aware of how long these must be retained. Children's development, care and welfare are promoted because the childminder keeps the required records and documents. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

The previous inspection highlighted two recommendations to; complete an appropriate first aid course for infants and young children and request written permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment from parents.

Since the last inspection; the childminder has completed a first aid course for infants and young children. In addition, parents have given written permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment on behalf of the child.

As a result, children are cared for by a childminder with up to date first aid knowledge and she is able to promptly act on the child's behalf regarding medical advice or treatment.

## **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 the information for children's appropriate care is maintained.
- ensure persons over the aged of 16 years complete the relevant checks.

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)