

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	125287
<b>Inspection date</b>	27 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Jenny Kane
<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 1996. She lives with her husband and adult children in Larkfield. The ground floor of the premises is used for childminding with access to an upstairs bedroom for sleeping. 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 five children aged between one and seven years. Schools, pre-schools, toddler groups, shops and parks are nearby.

The childminder is able to support children with learning difficulties and children who speak English as an addition language. She holds the NVQ level 3 qualification in childcare, is a member of the West Kent Childminding Network and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children play in welcoming, comfortable and well-maintained premises. The childminder takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection by maintaining very good standards of hygiene in all areas used by children. She promotes the health of the children very well by encouraging them to wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. They know where their own towels and toothbrushes are and younger children are beginning to learn about good personal hygiene. This helps children understand about independence and when to ask for help. Accident and medication records are in place; she has first aid resources ready to hand and holds a current first aid certificate. Sick children do not attend, which prevents the spread of infection, and the childminder works closely with parents to ensure she has correct information about individual health needs and requirements. Arrangements are in place with another childminder to cover in case of an emergency.

Children receive a good range of nutritious meals and snacks provided by the childminder. They enjoy sitting together at snack time at the small table and this teaches them about table manners and social skills. Babies bring their own food until they are ready to join in meals and there are good facilities for the preparation of feeds. Older children help in the preparation of drinks and snacks and the childminder encourages them to try new and healthy foods. The childminder consults with parents regarding menus and ensures meals comply with dietary and religious requirements. Drinks are readily available and children use individual cups and feeding mugs. Food intake and sleep patterns recorded in the contact books ensure parents are well informed. At rest time children use their own blankets and comforters for continuity. They sleep in line with parents' wishes using travel cots and rockers. The childminder discusses individual routines with parents to ensure young children sleep and eat when they need to. This results in very good continuity of care.

The childminder provides good opportunities for physical play, which ensures children's well-being. They have access to the garden and the vast range of equipment in good weather. There is a good amount of space for children to move about indoors and develop their physical skills. Outings, walking home from school and trips to local parks encourage children to develop a positive attitude to exercise.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a secure, well-maintained and safe environment. The childminder is meticulous in maintaining a safe home. She carries out a daily risk assessment by visually checking all areas and equipment indoors and the garden when it is in use, before children arrive. This allows children to move about freely and confidently during play activities. The childminder has a written evacuation plan and children have practise drills so they are familiar with the procedures. She plans outings carefully ensuring the venues are suitable for children. Parents give written permission for outings and for travel in her car and she shares vehicle information with parents. The childminder carries emergency equipment and children have individual personalised identification cards, which hold their details. This means she is well prepared for any eventuality.

The childminder provides an accessible and stimulating play environment, which fully supports children's development. Children have access to a very good selection of toys and equipment, which are of good quality and condition. Resources are well organised and children make choices for themselves about what they play with. They freely select toys and games from the baskets and containers in the living room and this encourages independence. Because they are displayed attractively, children respect the toys and help to clear away when finished playing.

The childminder demonstrates a very good awareness of her role in safeguarding children. She has a sound understanding of child protection procedures approved by the Local Safeguarding Children Board. She has attended recent training in the subject to increase her knowledge. Very clear written procedures are in place, which she shares with parents to ensure they are fully aware of her responsibilities.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are happy, content and show good attachment. They enjoy positive and meaningful relationships with the childminder. She plans a very good range of activities, which support their all round development. Children respond well to the childminder's interaction and individual attention. For example, while one child is playing with puzzles on the floor the younger child comes over to watch. The childminder encourages both children to join in and as a result, they both start to communicate ideas. Children are encouraged to be independent in selecting toys and taking themselves to the toilet. This gives younger children confidence to explore new ideas and experiences.

The childminder is using Birth to three matters extremely well within her service. Her excellent knowledge of the framework and child development ensures that all children are progressing well. The planning of the activities around the four components of the framework is very effective. This means she has a clear objective for each activity, which helps her to monitor progress and achievements. She carries out written observations and assessments on a regular basis. They are recorded in the children's individual record books and folders along with photographs and samples of work. This results in excellent written information for the parents, which really helps them to understand how the Birth to three framework benefits their children. These records go home with the children on a very regular basis and this encourages parents to continue children's care and learning at home.

The childminder demonstrates a very good understanding of how to encourage children's learning through play. She extends children's language and communication skills through talking and listening during play. For example, when children are playing with a construction toy that involves making creatures with heads, arms and bodies they have an interesting discussion about body parts. In addition, visits to the library encourage children to use books to find out useful information. Children have opportunities to develop their social skills during visits in the community and to the childminding group where they join in activities with children of similar ages. They discuss number, shape and colour during activities like playing with bricks. Their creativity is encouraged by partaking in a variety of messy play and craft activities. Younger children enjoy rattling and listening to the various sounds of the hand made shakers. The older children have made these out of plastic bottles and various small items.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder treats children as individuals with their own particular needs. She successfully promotes children's individual development through her excellent knowledge and awareness of equality issues. Children benefit from routines, which are consistent with their home experiences. The childminder discusses individual requirements with each parent to ensure good continuity of care. She has previous experience of caring for children with special needs and challenging behaviour. She has a very good understanding of the need to work closely with parents and carers. Her policy of inclusion is very clear and she has a good commitment to accommodating all children within her service. She has undertaken training in the subject to keep up to date with issues. Children have equal access to good resources, which reflect diversity and positive images. They learn about differences within society by celebrating festivals and partaking in various topics. Older children use the internet and the library to access additional information. This helps them to gain a good understanding of the wider world.

Appropriate behaviour management strategies are effective and work well in practice because the childminder deals with any incidents promptly. Older children understand the house rules and she discusses any issues with both the child and the parent. They receive explanations about what is acceptable and positive behaviour is actively encouraged and praised. Children's behaviour is good throughout the inspection. This is because the childminder provides interesting activities and pays children a very good amount of attention. The partnerships with parents are excellent. Very good two-way sharing of information benefits the children greatly and has a positive impact on their care and development. The childminder works closely with parents sharing information on a daily basis. Daily chats and the use of contact books helps to ensure parents understand what their children have achieved during the day. Parents state they are very happy with the care provided by the childminder. They particularly like the clear written communication in the form of the developmental record books and enjoy taking them home to share with their family. They also appreciate the help and advice received when dealing with behaviour issues and helping with homework. The childminder listens to and respects parents' views and opinions and this contributes to positive and professional working relationships.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from being cared for by a well-organised childminder who has a high regard to their well-being. The childminder manages her time well and gives thought to the effective use of space. She provides a very good mix of activities, which meet the developmental needs of all children in her care. The care of the younger children is very good and she demonstrates a sound understanding of the needs of babies and toddlers.

The childminder has comprehensive and detailed policies in place, which are of high quality and explain her service. All parents have a full copy of these, which they are able to refer to at home. They include clear information about complaints. In addition, she has a file of useful information on a variety of subjects. All required mandatory documentation is in place and appropriately maintained. The childminder maintains children's individual records, which are secure and confidential. She shares them appropriately with parents and this ensures children's welfare and well-being.

An effective support system established with other local childminders ensures children and their parents receive appropriate care in the event of an emergency. The childminder is proactive

in meeting with other child carers and attends the local childminding group where discussing issues with others improves her practice. She has a good commitment to self-development and attendance of training. This combined with her clear understanding of the National Standards ensures children and their parents receive a professional service. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

Since the last inspection in 2004 the childminder ensures that visitors to the house are recorded.

### **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)