

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	125986
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Mary Van De Peer

<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 1993. She lives with her family in Larkfield, near Maidstone, Kent. Most areas of the house are used for minding children. 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 under eight years and also several over eights. She is able to support children with learning difficulties or disabilities. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She also attends the local toddler group. The family have pet fish and a rabbit. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and she receives support from the Local Authority. The childminder is a member of an approved childminding network and is able to receive funding for nursery education for three and four year olds, although she is not providing nursery education for any three or four year olds at the time of this inspection.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has established excellent personal care routines for the children. They have their own named flannels which are renewed daily and paper towels for drying. There is an effective sick children policy which is shared with parents so that the risk of cross infection is minimised. For example, parents are always contacted if children become unwell whilst in the childminder's care. If children ever require any medication, written permission is obtained from parents and all administrations are properly and clearly recorded. The childminder has kept her first aid knowledge updated and holds a current first aid certificate. She has a well-stocked first aid kit, which means that children can be treated correctly and efficiently if they hurt themselves. All accidents, no matter how minor, are recorded and parents sign these entries. Children have daily access to outdoor play. The garden has equipment for children to develop skills in climbing and balancing. They walk everywhere locally and visit local parks and feed birds at a nearby pond. Children get plenty of fresh air and exercise. Indoors, children can assemble puzzles, practise their mark-making skills and build objects with construction activities. This means they are able to further develop both large and fine motor skills. When they feel tired the children can rest or sleep safely. The childminder has a very enthusiastic attitude towards providing children with nutritious snacks and meals. Examples of foods offered for children to eat are fruit, pasta and vegetables. Parents have a copy of the menu, which they can then discuss with the childminder, ensuring any food intolerances or favourites are catered for. Children are learning about eating and living healthily.

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

The provision is good.

The children are able to use the downstairs and garden area of the childminder's home. The bathroom is located upstairs and younger children are always escorted by the childminder. The house is very safe and child-friendly so that children can move around freely and independently. Children can select activities from an extensive range of good quality, stimulating toys and equipment. The childminder gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and the written emergency evacuation procedure is practised regularly. The environment is consistently secure and suitable for children to play in. The childminder has all the required procedures in place to help ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, a register and visitors record. The childminder has kept her child protection knowledge updated and has a good understanding of the procedures she follows to ensure children's welfare is properly safeguarded.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are treated very much as individuals and their input and opinions are greatly respected by the childminder. She has a very extensive range of age-appropriate, good quality toys and activities. They are all stored at children's height so they can make choices in their play and extend their play. Creative resources and recycled materials mean children can use their imagination and invent games and make believe situations. Older children learn negotiation skills and how to reach a decision together. The childminder's knowledge of Birth to three matters means she is able to appropriately challenge the younger children in their play. She provides them with the opportunities to develop new skills, praising them and making them

feel they can achieve anything. Children are confident and know the childminder's routine. She gives them her undivided attention and allows them to think for themselves and come up with plans, for example where to go on outings in the school holidays. Pre-school children are able to socialise with other children their own age at local toddler groups. Children enjoy their time at the childminder's home. They are achieving very well because the childminder is caring, professional and has an excellent knowledge and understanding of how children develop and learn.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children use a range of suitable toys which show positive images of people and cultures. This helps to ensure that they learn about each other's differences and needs. Children receive individual attention from the childminder and get lots of praise for their achievements, however slight they are. For example, a child manages to join several inter-locking construction pieces together. Children's individual needs are met and their self-esteem promoted. The childminder has effective, written behaviour management strategies which are agreed and shared with parents. Children play freely within negotiated and effective boundaries. Information on children's development and behaviour is shared with parents, verbally at the end of each day and is also written in a daily contact book. Children receive continuity of care. The childminder's service statement is well written and clearly shows the childminder's aims and objectives. Every parent receives a copy of the policies and procedures. The childminder shows all the children respect and values highly their contributions to situations. Their behaviour is good and they respond very well to guidance and instruction from the childminder. Photographs of children playing happily together show how well they get on.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The children's welfare is most important to the childminder. Children feel at home and at ease with the child-friendly and relaxed environment. They are confident and very happy in their play. However, there is a large quantity of play resources presented in a small space, which may be overwhelming to some children. The childminder inter-acts well with the children and uses information from parents and her own observations to provide individual care. The childminder's policies and procedures are used very effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. All record keeping is kept up to date. The Ofsted certificate is clearly displayed and public liability insurance is renewed annually. The childminder has obtained relevant qualifications and gained her accreditation. She also attends additional child care training whenever possible. This helps to improve the service and care she provides for children and their families. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

There was one action raised at the last inspection that required the childminder to obtain a copy of The Code of Practice for Special Needs. She now has a copy of this publication as well as other information regarding the care of children with learning difficulties and/or difficulties. The childminder confirms that she refers to these when it is appropriate. Children benefit from the childminder's improved knowledge about meeting the individual care needs of children.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since 1 April, 2004 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 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 reviewing the way the toys, activities and resources are presented to the children, to help prevent them being given too much choice in their play

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)