

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY273382
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Jan Healy
<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 registered in 2003. She lives with her children aged 18, 15, 14, 11 and three years in Gillingham, Kent. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time. Currently, she is caring for one child. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

The family own a pet cat.

The childminder attends the local childminding group.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has excellent understanding about the measures to put into place, to ensure the children in her care stay fit and healthy. Excellent hand washing and drying facilities help

to prevent the spread of cross-infection. The children are taught about the importance of maintaining a high level of personal hygiene, for example, making use of paper tissues for the blowing of their nose and to cover their mouth when coughing. An exceptional nappy changing routine keeps the younger children dry and content. Dummies, teething aids and comforters are never shared. Prior parental written consent is sought for the administration of medication, with details being recorded for parents' perusal. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and is confident to deal with an accident. A first aid box is within easy reach, with items being replenished when necessary. Sick children are not permitted into the home and if they become ill during their stay, they are swiftly reunited with their parents. The children are protected from passive smoking, as such a habit is not permitted within the provision.

The childminder is aware of the importance of providing the children with a healthy and nutritious diet, to maintain their health and wellbeing. Food is stored at an appropriate temperature and is thoroughly cooked or re-heated. The children enjoy mealtimes whilst sat together at a dining room table, making a sociable occasion, when the children have the opportunity to chat about events that are important to them. Information is sought from the parents about the children's likes and dislikes and they eat at their own pace. The children taste a wide range of foods from around the world and help in its preparation.

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

The provision is good.

The children have the benefit of having plenty of space to play in the childminder's home. There is a playroom dedicated to the children, where the majority of the play takes place. There is a kitchen diner, where the children participate in messy play, such as painting and a lounge, where the children rest. A fully enclosed outdoor area, is available for physical play, which is secure. The home is bright, airy and remains to a comfortable temperature, so play takes place in comfort.

The furniture, equipment and resources are appropriate for their purpose and help to create an accessible environment. This includes the child sized table and chairs, so the children write and draw in comfort. There are pushchairs and reins used for outings, ensuring the children remain safe at all times. A booster seat and step are available, to enable the younger children to join the older children at the dining room table during mealtimes. The playroom contains a broad range of resources, however, it is not clear what items are within the toy boxes, which prohibits the children's independence when choosing resources of their choice.

The childminder takes appropriate precautions to ensure the children in her care remain safe at all times. An effective procedure is in place for the children's arrival and departure and they are protected from adults who are not vetted. Smoke alarms are fitted, which are regularly checked, so the childminder is swiftly informed of impending danger. Fire exits remain clear and the children take part in an emergency evacuation procedure, so they are familiar with the routine to leave the home without delay. There are no trip hazards and dangerous items and fluids are kept out of the children's reach.

The childminder's priority is towards the good health and welfare of the children in her care, therefore, she keeps herself up to date about the procedure to follow in the event of witnessing a concern. She has strong understanding about child protection issues and is familiar with the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. A pre-existing injury record is maintained, with the parents being requested for their explanation. This prevents a pattern of injury from going unnoticed.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The children have the advantage of being cared for by a childminder who is creative in her thinking and is dynamic in the planning of an immense range of play opportunities, which the children thoroughly enjoy. They interlock jigsaws and couple trains. They learn about the repetitiveness of patterns and look at the stripes on tigers and zebras. They learn about symmetry when printing butterflies. An abacus aids the children's counting skills and they sing an extensive range of counting songs and rhymes. The children bake a comprehensive range of foods and learn about where the ingredients originally come from. The children flourish in their social skills, as they constantly learn new words. There are a massive range of picture, story and resources books, which the children have easy access to. They enjoy listening to stories and sit quietly with a book, turning the pages one at a time. The children dress up in outfits of their choice, acting out their experiences and pretending to be characters they have met.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice is actively promoted. Appropriate language is used, so the children learn about respect for all. Each child's individuality is celebrated, with the children learning about the needs of each other and learning to assist their friends when they require help. Substantial resources reflect diversity, including dressing up clothes, crockery, cutlery, books, jigsaws and books. The children have high self-esteem and are encouraged to reach their potential.

The childminder is proactive in ensuring that appropriate action is taken, when a child who enters her care, is identified as having a learning difficulty or disability. All the children's needs are met, with activities being adapted according to their need. Meticulous consultation with parents, keeps both parties up to date about the progress the children are making or about any further concerns noted. This then enables the childminder to plan a suitable range of play opportunities, which aid the children's development.

The childminder is able to manage a broad spectrum of behaviour, in a way that promotes the children's welfare and development. She sets a good example, as she is an exceptional role model. She encourages the children to take care of each other and to share the toys and resources on offer. The children are readily praised and are provided with an explanation as to why a particular behaviour is desired. House rules are set by the children, who adhere to them proudly. The childminder recognises that the children are learning to deal with an extensive range of emotions and feelings. She acknowledges this and works with the children to find constructive solutions.

The childminder and parents have an exceptionally strong relationship. The parents are involved with their children's learning, as they are kept up to date about the stage of development they have reached and about how this can be furthered at home. Comprehensive information about the provision is shared with the parents, including an array of policies and statements. The parents have precise information about the play opportunities the children take part in and how such activities will aid their learning. The parents have excellent information about the procedure to follow in the event of wishing to raise a concern. Effective written permission from the parents, helps to keep the children safe and keeps the parents aware of the activities they engage in.

## Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. The children are protected from adults who are not vetted and are appropriately supervised, both indoors and when on outings. The childminder has strong understanding about the National Standards and has the ability to meet them. She keeps herself up to date with relevant training and about any changing legislation. All records are readily available for inspection and are stored confidentially, to protect the children's personal details. An attendance register details the children's time of arrival and departure, so they are accounted for in an emergency. The adult: child ratio is maintained at all times. Ofsted are notified about any changes, so suitable checks can be made.

## Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection, the childminder was requested to keep details about the children's times of arrival and departure. This is now in place, so all are accounted for in an emergency.

## 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 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):

- develop the children's independence when choosing toys and resources

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)