

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY216754
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Liz Margaret Caluori
<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 has been registered since 2002. She lives with her husband and three children aged 13, nine and six years in Edenbridge, Kent. Childminding generally takes place on the ground floor and there is also a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight years at any one time. She is currently looking after a total of six children under eight and four children over eight years, all on a part time basis.

The family have a dog, a cat, a rabbit and a guinea pig as pets.

The childminder takes children to the local play group and attends the toddler group on a regular basis.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are very well supported to develop good personal hygiene practices. They wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. They also use tissues to blow their noses with gentle reminders from the childminder. Nappy changing procedures are hygienic and entirely appropriate.

Children play in a very clean and tidy environment. The childminder follows good food hygiene procedures and mops the floor of the kitchen and dining room on a daily basis. She also ensures that the toys are washed regularly.

The childminder provides nutritious snacks and meals, all planned to meet the individual dietary requirements of the children attending. Lunch usually consists of sandwiches or finger foods and the childminder prepares a cooked evening meal. Children speak very knowledgeably about the different fruits and vegetables on offer. Food is prepared and served appropriately and drinks are constantly available.

Effective procedures are in place to care for sick children although there are minor weaknesses in the quality of written medication records. The childminder has attended first aid training, allowing her to treat children in case of a minor accident. She has a system in place to make the required records, however these sometimes lack clarity.

Children benefit from very regular opportunities to take part in physical play. They play with a range of outdoor toys including a trampoline, swings, ride-on bikes, a climbing frame and a play house. The childminder has a large open fronted barn which provides shelter for children to play outside even when it is raining or very sunny. Children also enjoy visits to local woods, soft play centres and toddler groups for physical games.

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

The provision is good.

Children are extremely well protected by the childminder's commitment to ensuring their safety. She has undertaken a thorough risk assessment and regularly completes a health and safety checklist. Safety gates are used to restrict children's access to potentially hazardous areas. In addition, socket covers are available to be placed in all unused sockets.

Children are learning how to keep themselves safe as a result of the ongoing advice and support of the childminder. This includes explaining why they must wear their seatbelts and why they need supervision on the trampoline. They also gain an understanding of safety issues from practical experiences such as cooking activities.

The childminder has given consideration to protecting children in case of a fire. She has identified the evacuation routes from the house and has fitted smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. There is also a fire blanket in the kitchen, however this is not wall mounted and is placed extremely close to the cooker. This makes it impractical to use in case of an emergency.

The childminder has a very good understanding of her responsibilities regarding child protection. She has completed an NSPCC training course and is confident in her ability to identify the potential signs and symptoms of abuse.

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

The provision is good.

Children play happily in the warm, friendly environment. They are extremely relaxed and settled and approach the childminder readily for support and attention. They respond very well to the constant smiles, praise and encouragement they receive. In addition to playing freely with the toys provided, children enjoy activities planned by the childminder. She demonstrates a very good knowledge of the individual needs, likes and dislikes of each child. This allows her to ensure that activities are appealing and offer an appropriate amount of challenge.

Children are also taken to a number of local groups to experience a greater range of activities and to socialise with other children. They enjoy walks and visits to local places of interest such as Hever Castle.

Activities which are currently popular with minded children include arts and crafts, role play, cooking, puzzles and dancing. There are also board games and more complex activities for older children.

Children are extremely well supported to explore, experiment, and make choices. They receive a very good level of individual attention and are also encouraged to feel part of the group. As a result, children's all round well-being is promoted.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the positive relationships between the childminder and their parents and carers. The childminder provides a very good range of written information. This includes a detailed policy advising parents of the procedures for investigating and reporting on complaints.

Children's behaviour is extremely good. They are friendly, caring and exceptionally well mannered. They respond positively to the childminder's calm, consistent and light hearted manner.

The childminder has a written policy outlining her commitment to promoting equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice. Children are provided with a range of resources that promote positive images of people from throughout the community and wider world. They take part in activities to mark a range of festivals and special days including Chinese New Year, Diwali, Easter, Valentine's Day and Christmas.

Effective procedures are in place to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The childminder has a very positive attitude towards ensuring the needs of all children are met.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder is extremely committed to monitoring and improving all aspects of the service she provides. She regularly attends training courses to increase her knowledge and understanding of child development and childminding practices.

Space within the home is well organised to ensure that a wide range of activities can take place at the same time. By skilfully managing her time, the childminder effectively ensures that each

individual child receives the care and attention they need. As a result of this children are happy, settled and confident.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

Following the last inspection it was recommended that the childminder improved the arrangements for keeping written documentation. Whilst minor weaknesses remain in the accident and medication records, all required records are maintained and are generally well ordered and up to date. This contributes to the effective management of the service. The childminder has also improved safety precautions by ensuring that alcohol is now stored out of the reach of children.

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

Since the last inspection Ofsted received one complaint relating to National Standard 6: Safety. This involved an allegation that the childminder was not sufficiently vigilant in her supervision of children. Ofsted conducted an unannounced visit to discuss the concerns, view relevant documentation and make observations. The childminder was able to demonstrate that she had advised parents' of her practices and had assessed the risks. However, as a result of the visit the childminder accepted that, at times, she had not followed best practice. An action was set under National Standard 6 to ensure that children are supervised at all times and that they are not left unattended on outings or in a vehicle. A response to the action was received. This gave a full response and indicated a change of practice so that children were never left alone in the car. The provider remains qualified for registration. The childminder has completed a summary record of the complaint and this is available for parents to see on request.

## **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):

- improve fire safety precautions by ensuring that the fire blanket in the kitchen is appropriately sited and fitted to the wall
- improve the clarity of records relating to accidents and medicines given.

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)