

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** EY355080  
**Inspection date** 19 May 2008  
**Inspector** Vanessa Wood

**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** 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 2007. She lives with her husband and two young children in a house in Barming, near Maidstone, Kent. The downstairs and first floor of her home are used for childminding. The second floor is not registered. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She is currently minding eight children on a part-time basis. The family has two cats.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which promote their health and well-being. Daily outdoor activities help the children to develop control of their bodies. For example, older children enjoy jumping on the trampoline and younger children enjoy playing with the sit-and-ride toys. Children also visit the local park, where they can use the large equipment, and they have plenty of fresh air as they walk to school most days weather permitting. Children learn appropriate personal hygiene habits because the childminder provides good support and establishes acceptable routines for changing nappies. There are satisfactory arrangements for

recording minor accidents. However, the childminder does not record medicines administered to children in a confidential manner. She has a first aid certificate so she can deal with any emergency, but she does not have written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Children benefit from healthy balanced meals cooked by the childminder from fresh ingredients, many of which she grows in her own garden. Menus are available to show parents the meals the childminder provides. All dietary needs are discussed with the parents to ensure suitable meals are provided.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and child-friendly environment where risks have been identified and minimised. For example, all electrical sockets are covered and cupboards in the kitchen are fitted with safety catches. This means that children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. Children can make independent choices from a range of toys and resources which are displayed at their level. These are well maintained. However, the outdoor play area is not safe because the fence across the garden to prevent children accessing the greenhouse has been removed. This compromises children's safety when using the garden. Children are kept safe when walking to school because the childminder ensures they wear fluorescent jackets so that they can be seen easily by other road users. All documents, such as public liability insurance and insurance for her car, are in place, but the childminder does not have written permission from parents to take children in her car. The childminder has a reasonable understanding of child protection issues and is clear about how to follow up any concerns, which ensures her ability to protect children.

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

The provision is good.

Children are confident and at ease in the childminder's home because she develops friendly relationships with them. They settle easily and access their own toys and play materials. The childminder responds positively to children, sharing games with them and helping them learn new skills. For example, they all sit comfortably on the floor looking at animals in a large box. The childminder encourages the young children to think about the noise each animal makes and as she makes the animal noise the children laugh with delight. She talks to children about the number of legs and the colours and shapes of the animals. Children enjoy looking at books that the childminder reads to them and they visit the library regularly so that they can choose their own books. Children are introduced to new experiences, such as finger painting, and begin to learn the different colours of the paints as they use their hands and shaped sponges to make patterns on the paper. The childminder creates an environment that is free from outside noise so that children can concentrate on their play without distraction.

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

The provision is good.

Children behave well because they understand the expectations of the childminder and have access to well organised, age appropriate play resources. The childminder has house rules which she enforces in a positive way by giving lots of praise for things well done and by not dwelling on the negative behaviour. She encourages children to be polite and to say 'please' and 'thank you' and builds mutual respect with the children. Children are valued and treated as individuals. They have access to some resources that promote equality of opportunity, such as books and

puzzles. The childminder believes in the importance of developing a good working relationship with parents. She provides parents with a written service statement which includes details of her policies and procedures. Good communication is promoted because the childminder uses emails and text messages to ensure all information is shared with parents.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home because the childminder organises play spaces to meet their needs. They are protected because she supervises them carefully most of time, although she does not fully ensure children are safe in the garden. Policies developed by the childminder are used effectively and promote children's welfare, care and learning. However some procedures are not in place or they lack detail.

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

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

Not applicable: this is the first inspection since registration.

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

Since registration, 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):

- ensure parents provide written permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure all records of medicines administered to children are kept confidential
- complete a risk assessment of the garden to ensure children do not have access to the greenhouse
- ensure parents provide written permission to transport children in the car

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)