



Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** 125142  
**Inspection date** 18 October 2005  
**Inspector** Linda Patricia Coccia

**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 1989. She lives with her husband and 2 adult children in Gravesend, Kent. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one-time and is currently minding 3 children under 5 years. The childminder walks to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. The family has a pet cat.

The childminder can support children with special educational needs. She is a

member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean home with a welcoming environment, where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Children participate in effective personal hygiene procedures. They wash their hands or use antibacterial wipes to wipe hands after having their nappies changed. Children are beginning to understand about hygiene issues.

The childminder works closely with parents when particular medical conditions are involved. Medication is administered following the hospital or doctor's direction and all paperwork is completed in accordance with regulations.

Children's individual medical needs are catered for and the childminder's sick child policy ensures children have reduced risks of cross infection.

The childminder works well with parents concerning the provision of meals and snacks for their children. Children eat food provided by parents, therefore receiving continuity of care and are provided with extra fruit or snacks provided by the childminder if they are hungry.

Children benefit from regular physical exercise as there is a wide range of physical play equipment available both in the garden and indoors. On wet days the children are able to play with the pop up play tent and tunnels indoors. When visiting the local park, there are always two adults present to help the children use play equipment safely. Children enjoy physical exercise.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a spacious home where risks are identified and minimised. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. Toys are stored safely and cleaned regularly. Children play with safe toys.

The children play within a well organised, safe environment. Weekly risk assessments are carried out by the childminder on the premises, including the garden and toys. Appropriate safety equipment such as stairgates and socket covers are in place. Broken toys are disposed of immediately. Children use appropriately sized furniture and equipment suitable for their ages. They are too young to discuss emergency evacuation procedures with the childminder but there is an effective plan in place which the childminder practises. Children are beginning to learn about home safety. When children are taken on outings there are always 2 adults present as all 3 children need to use a pushchair. Although emergency contact numbers are programmed into the childminder's mobile phone, she does not carry any other

information about the children which identifies them as being looked after.

There are well written, clear, concise procedures for dealing with child protection issues which help keep the children safe. The written information is shared with parents which ensures they have a good understanding of the childminder's role in protecting children. To date there has been no need to record any incidents. Children's well-being is promoted.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a warm and caring relationship with their childminder. They are offered a range of activities, suitable for their ages and covering all areas of development. Young children are discovering numbers and colour through their play with toys such as Duplo and puzzles. They are beginning to learn about sharing and using utensils through role playing with tea sets and play food.

Children are taken on local outings to the park and shops. Sometimes they visit a local elderly residents home where they have made friends with lots of 'nannies and grandads'. They take and receive presents on special occasions such as Easter and Christmas. They see lots of positive images of disability such as wheelchairs and people using walking frames. Children experience different people in their community.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminders experience of caring for children from different cultures. Children are encouraged to participate in all activities, regardless of gender or ability. They have access to some toys and books which show positive images of race and culture but there could be more showing positive images of disability. Children begin to learn about each other's differences.

Children receive lots of praise for their achievements, however slight, for example posting the right shape through the correct hole in the shape sorter. The childminder has effective, written behaviour management strategies which are agreed and effectively shared with parents. The childminder is enthusiastic about giving praise and not dwelling too much on negative behaviour. Children play freely within effective boundaries and develop good self-esteem.

Parents report that the children receive very good care and support from the childminder, as do they and other members of their families. Parents receive a good insight into how their children develop through the daily verbal exchanges about the children's well-being and achievements. The childminder's service statement is very well written and has a very welcoming tone to it. It covers a multitude of information which encourages parents to work with her to provide a warm and friendly atmosphere for the children. There is a separate complaints sheet which gives details

of all the people a parent could complaint to, if not satisfied with the care offered. Children receive continuity of care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has been caring for children for many years. She holds a current paediatric first aid certificate. All adults in the household have been vetted and hold current Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks. She tries to keep herself up-to-date in current childcare practices by using NCMA and County of Kent Childminding Association (CKCA) publications and magazines.

The childminder's registration certificate is displayed. The childminder has acceptable levels of paperwork completed on each child. The attendance register is completed daily and all relevant paperwork is shared with parents. Paperwork is confidential and stored appropriately. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The childminder has reviewed documentation regarding the keeping of an accident record and children's accidents are now being recorded. She has improved the written information made available to parents particularly regarding child protection issues and the making of complaints. Finally the adults living on the premises all hold new criminal record bureau checks and are in the process of being re-vetted.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- carry relevant contact information about the children when off the premises with them.
- assess current toys for positive images of disability and increase the range if necessary.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)