



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY259270
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 May 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Mary Van De Peer
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Integrated
<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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are good.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2003. She lives with her husband and children in Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent. The whole ground floor is used for minding children. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding five children. She drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder also attends the local Parent and Toddler Group. The family has a dog and a hamster.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She also receives support from the Local Authority. The childminder can also support children with special educational needs. She is a member of an approved childminding network and is currently in receipt of funding for nursery education for three and four year olds.

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## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, well-organised home, which has a welcoming environment. They are learning the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Children have a clear understanding of why they must wash their hands before eating, after using the toilet or touching the dog. This reduces the risk of cross contamination. The children benefit from the childminder's effective written sick child policy. Parents give individual written permissions for the administration of medication and sun creams, going on outings, transporting children in the car, and the use of photographs. Children are cared for according to their parent's requirements.

Children are offered a good selection of food which is healthy and nutritious. They are able to choose from a variety of snacks and fruit. The childminder works well with parents in this area and they have the option to provide meals if they prefer. Children learn about healthy eating. Children benefit from regular physical exercise as there is a wide range of physical play equipment available both in the garden and indoors. They take regular walks to toddler groups and local parks with the childminder. Children enjoy the physical exercise. They are also able to rest when they need to. Children's physical development is progressing well.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a spacious home where risks are identified and minimised. This means they are able to move around freely and independently. Children are kept safe by the use of appropriate equipment such as safety gates and socket covers. Children are also kept safe outside the home. Procedures are used by the childminder covering travel in the car as well as when out walking. Children learn about keeping themselves safe. The childminder has clear child protection procedures which ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. Procedures are fully explained to parents to help reassure them. The childminder also ensures she has appropriate information for the safe collection of children. The equipment and toys available are suitable and appropriate. High chairs, cots and car seats, all conform to safety standards. There is an emergency evacuation procedure which is practised by the childminder and all the children. Fire safety equipment is in place.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a good knowledge and understanding of the local child protection procedures.

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

The provision is good.

All the children have a warm and caring relationship with the childminder. They are treated as individuals and their different needs are well catered for by the use of good quality toys and activities. These resources are stored at children's height so they can make choices in their

play. Children are confident, relate well to each other and socialise with other children through regular visits to local toddler clubs. Children enjoy their time at the childminder's home. They achieve well because the childminder is caring, professional and has a good understanding of how young children develop. They also experience a sense of their local community through regular walks and visits to parks.

The children settle well at the childminder's house. They make themselves at home, choosing activities they want to play with. They are able to develop their independence as can they choose between a variety of toys, books, resources and equipment which are suited to their age range and capabilities. The childminder uses the Birth to three matters and the curriculum guidance effectively. This results in her being able to provide stimulating activities such as story telling, art and craft and role play to promote the children's learning. They listen and respond to stories, rhymes and songs. The children have a wonderful time painting pictures on paper plates. They also like to help prepare their snacks and drinks. All children spend their time purposefully.

### Nursery Education

The quality of teaching and learning is good. There is currently one child attending who receives funding for their nursery education. The childminder has developed appropriate plans which are flexible and can be adapted to suit the needs and development of all children. There is a wide range of good resources and activities which help promote children's progress in all six areas of learning. The childminder has examples of children's achievements, showing what the children are able to produce by way of paintings and drawings. However, there are limited mark-making resources which children can use in everyday situations. The child care area has numerous pieces of children's work displayed. Photographs available show children enjoying different activities, for example, outdoor play and dressing up. The childminder has a secure understanding of how children develop and provides a stimulating environment in which they can play and learn.

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

The provision is good.

Children are able to play with a range of 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 when required and get lots of praise. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered well. The childminder has effective, written behaviour management strategies which are agreed and shared with parents. Children play freely within effective boundaries and develop good self-esteem. Children's individual needs are met.

Partnership with parents is good. The childminder discusses children's backgrounds with parents. This enables her to provide good quality, appropriate care and education for the children. She also provides them with regular verbal and written feedback about their children's daily achievements. This helps ensure that whichever parent collects, both are aware of requests and information. Children receive continuity of care. The childminder's service statement is well written and has a welcoming tone to it. It covers a good range of the childminder's procedures.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has completed an Introducing Childcare Practice course and attended the Birth to three matters and Foundation Stage training. She has also achieved accreditation. The childminder attends additional child care training whenever possible. All adults in the household have been vetted. This means that children's welfare and progress is assured. The childminder has all the required documentation, confidentially stored but readily available when needed. However, the attendance register is not always marked daily and there is currently no visitor's record. The childminder has completed a service contract with parents, which is regularly reviewed. Her registration certificate is displayed. The contact book on each child is shared with parents, ensuring they are kept informed about their children's development and daily routine. The children's welfare is important to the childminder. They are offered a good level of care and education for their age and level of understanding. This means children are confident and very happy in their play. The childminder's policies are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. However, the complaints procedure lacks some up to date detail. Children feel at home and at ease with the child-friendly and relaxed environment. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Leadership and management is good. Information about the service and the children's progress is shared with parents. This contributes to the continuity in the children's care. Comprehensive but flexible plans are regularly evaluated and adapted to enable children make progress in all areas of their development.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The childminder has followed the previous recommendations to improve the provision and has now achieved accreditation to provide Nursery Education to funded three and four year old children. Children benefit from receiving nursery education in a home environment. She has also risk assessed and sought information regarding the press and turn style windows she has in her home. It is very difficult for young children to operate these and it also means that a key is not required, allowing for a quick exit in an emergency. Children's safety is not compromised.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004.

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.

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The quality and standards of the nursery education are good.

### 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 children's and visitor's record kept accurately and up to date
- ensure complaint recording procedure is in place and parents are made aware of it

#### The quality and standards of the nursery education

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- consider providing mark making resources for children to use in their daily 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)