



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY285863
<b>Inspection date</b>	20 February 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Freeda Wildon

<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 satisfactory. 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 2005. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 3 and 9 in Margate, Kent. The 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 2 children at any one time and is currently minding 2 children under 5 on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

There are effective hygiene procedures implemented by the childminder to prevent the spread of infection. Young children's hands are wiped before eating, however, this does not teach children about good hygiene practices regarding hand washing.

Children's dietary requirements and parents' wishes are respected. Children are provided with drinks throughout the day to keep them hydrated. Procedures are in place for the administration of medication and to record accidents. A first aid kit and up-to-date first aid training help the childminder to act in the best interest of children should there be an accident or if a child becomes ill whilst in her care.

Physical exercise is limited to play in the lounge. Outdoor play in the garden is only undertaken in fine weather and fresh air is limited to the pre-school run. Consequently opportunities for rigorous exercise and fresh air are limited.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises and equipment are clean, safe and secure. Children are not able to leave the premises unsupervised. Effective procedures for safe arrival and collection of children are in place. For example, the childminder has introduced a password system to ensure that children are only collected by authorised persons. A fire blanket is available, smoke alarms are in place but, as yet, the fire evacuation procedure is not shared with parents or practised with children.

Effective safety procedures are in place for when the children are away from the home and children are learning about road safety. The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of the recommendation for keeping babies safe when sleeping. However, her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues is less secure.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive happily and settle well. Relationships are developing and the use of gentle encouragement and praise from the childminder help build children's self-esteem and confidence. Children have fun exploring the range of toys from baskets as they play alongside each other. They learn to make connections in play, for example, as they use toys with buttons. Children learn to develop simple problem-solving skills through activities such as stacking bricks and building a tower. They learn to sort and order with gentle support from the childminder who teaches the children to take turns. Most of the toys are colourful, plastic manufactured resources and do not reflect the natural world. The range of experiences which

enable children to explore their senses and to develop creativity are not yet planned.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are content and are settling well with the childminder who interacts positively with them. Children are valued and differences respected. They are learning to share and take turns because the childminder encourages and praises the children.

The child record forms include the children's personal details such as religion and special requirements to enable the childminder to provide for individual needs. The home setting reflects positive images of ethnicity to help children develop a knowledge and understanding of the world. As yet, resources that reflect positive images of disabilities are not available.

Parents are informed of their child's care through verbal discussion. Contracts are in place recording business arrangements. This promotes consistency between home and childminding. However, some prior written consents from parents are missing and the childminder has not developed a complaints procedure and informed parents what to do if they have concerns.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children's routine includes quiet times, meal times and play times. The childminder has completed a childminder's course but has not obtained the Birth to three matter framework to further promote children's development.

The childminder is able to show that all adults living in the household have undergone checks to establish their suitability. The attendance register confirms that the childminder complies with the conditions of her registration. However, the recordings are not accurate and the records show predicted times of attendance in pencil. Other documentation for the safe and effective management of the setting and welfare and the care of children are maintained satisfactorily. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

Not applicable.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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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## 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 knowledge and understanding of child protection
- provide opportunities for children to receive rigorous exercise
- maintain an accurate record of children's attendance
- develop a complaints procedure and share this with parents
- develop the range of activities for young children; for example, by the use of the Birth to three matters framework
- request prior written consent from all parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

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