



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	125819
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 February 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Claire, Alexandra Parnell

<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 1989.

She lives in the village of Sutton at Hone close to the towns of Dartford and Swanley. The childminder uses the playroom and kitchen for minding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children and when minding with an assistant there can be six children under the age of five years. She is currently minding eight children under five years with her assistant and three children

after school. All children are cared for on a part time basis.

The childminder drives to local schools and pre schools. The childminder does not have any pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about hygiene practice and are encouraged to be independent in their self care skills, such as toileting and washing hands. Children have access to plentiful positive information about germs and hygiene to promote their understanding. Children currently share a towel to dry their hands which can contribute towards cross infection.

Children play in a hygienic environment, where a cleaning rota is used to ensure all toys are appropriately cleaned for their play.

Safe medication administration procedures for children are not fully promoted. The childminder does not have written consent to administer the medication to children and does not have a secure system to inform parents of when the medication was administered.

Children have access to freshly cooked meals that promote healthy eating. They are given a good range of foods that encourage their development of taste. Children's preferences and requirements are taken into consideration to meet their dietary needs. Children are given some healthy options for snacks, biscuits are available but in moderation. The childminder promotes the drinking of fresh water, which is freely available and accessible to all children, to enable them to decide when they need a drink. Babies feeds are stored and warmed appropriately to promote their individual feeding needs.

Children have access to physical activities on a daily basis, either using the rear garden for space and movement, or the local parks for the use of large equipment such as swings and slides. Children regularly walk to the horses, local to the childminders home. Therefore they are gaining fresh air and a sense of well being.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a safe and secure environment, giving them the opportunity to use the space available to them independently and safely. Due to the childminder and her assistant working directly with the children, they are always closely supervised to promote their safe use of the environment.

Children have free access to safely stored equipment and resources which are clean and maintained. The childminder monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are suitable for their age and stage of development.

Children's safety is promoted within specific practices such as road and car safety and fire safety. Children learn about their safety when out in the car, when walking along roads and collecting from school. They are given clear explanations and instructions. Children's safety regarding fire and evacuation is promoted by the childminder because the safety equipment is available and maintained and a written evacuation plan is available in the parent's folder.

The childminder has a sound understanding of procedures to ensure children are kept safe from un-vetted persons. She is aware of the necessary steps to take in line with Area Child Protection Committee procedures to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are happy, content and occupied and have access to a good range of activities for all ages. Therefore their development and interest in new equipment and skills is enhanced. The childminder supports their play and learning by introducing a topic for all children to participate in. Children learn to negotiate, share and take turns in their play, developing a consideration for others. The childminder promotes younger children's development through her own framework of age related targets, but does not have the knowledge of Birth to Three Matters framework to promote children's development by stage and through recognition of everyday events.

Children enjoy experimenting with creative and messy resources, developing their creative flair and an understanding for imagination. Children extend their play using the outdoor environment, especially towards wild life and animals, therefore promoting their understanding for the outside world.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder uses relevant information about the children to support them and recognise their individual characters and personalities, therefore responding to their particular needs. Children have access to some resources that portray positive images of today's society, therefore they are slowly developing an understanding of people's differing needs. This is also promoted by the children celebrating different festivals throughout the year.

Children with special needs are carefully considered by the childminder. She understands the need to assess the child's needs and adapt the service to meet their special needs and disabilities.

The childminder has sound expectations and boundaries for the children, but children

are not aware of the impact that their actions have upon themselves and others, due to the limited explanations that they receive. The childminder has a written statement of behaviour, but there is a greater emphasis on unwanted behaviour and limited information on the recognition of positive behaviour. Therefore children have more recognition for unwanted behaviour than those that promote positive contributions to their play.

The childminder builds close relationships with parents, supporting them through family circumstances, therefore promoting reassurance for the child. Children settle quickly and confidently into her care due to the familiar surroundings and routine of the day. Parents have access to some service information but this does not include details of complaints, therefore parents are not fully informed as to who to contact if they have a concern. The childminder does share daily events with the parents to provide them with relevant information about their child's achievements and participation in activities.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a warm and welcoming environment for children, enhancing their confidence to settle quickly into the setting and develop their independence in choosing activities and resources. The childminder holds relevant Early Years qualification to promote appropriate care. The childminder is aware of her limitations in caring for numbers, with and without the assistant, to ensure she offers the best service for each individual child in her care.

Children are cared by two people who have relevant ongoing checks to ensure their suitability for caring for children. Both childminder and assistant have updated their first aid training to ensure children are treated appropriately in the event of accidents.

Most documentation is available and complete. However, some documentation breaches confidentiality of children details, such as record of medication and accidents, therefore not fully supporting children's welfare. Some documentation is lacking organisation, therefore not all relevant information about a child is centrally available and secure.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was given five actions to bring her childcare practice in line with National Standards.

The assistant's details are displayed through her own registration certificate, but her daily attendance is not recorded appropriately.

All children's records are complete and available, with additional contacts from all

parents. However, some documentation is not kept with the majority of information and there is a possibility of records getting lost.

Both childminder and assistant have updated their first aid training and now have certificates available in their parent's folder. Therefore children can be cared for appropriately in the event of an injury.

Both childminder and assistant have applied for CRB checks and are awaiting their return, to ensure that they have the relevant clearances to care for children unsupervised.

The childminder has introduced a rota for cleaning for equipment and resources to ensure children play with clean equipment to promote hygiene. All toy cleaning is recorded in the attendance register.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. The provider is requested 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 satisfactory. 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 all recorded information about children is organised, secure and confidential.
- devise a secure system to gain consent to administer medication and to inform parents of when medication was given
- promote younger children's development by using Birth to Three Matters Framework
- promote positive behaviour management in both practice and written information

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