



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	103583
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 April 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Beryl Witheridge
<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 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 1988. She lives with her husband and her adult daughter in Strood, 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 5 children at any one time. She is currently caring for 8 children, of whom one is full time and the others are all part time, 2 are over 8 years. The childminder walks and drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder runs the local parent and toddler group. The family has a dog, rabbit and guinea pig.

The childminder supports children with special educational needs. She is a member of an approved childminding network and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children are provided with experiences which help to promote their knowledge and understanding of good health issues. They benefit from effective hygiene practices where they learn about good health routines, such as hand washing. Children are encouraged to wash their hands after going to the toilet and the childminder uses a book about hand washing and germs to remind them why, when and how they should do this and supports with appropriate language. Antibacterial hand wash is used and children have their own towel which is changed daily. An antibacterial spray is used for cleaning surfaces, toilet and sink. Children are protected from the spread of infection because the childminder has good hygiene standards. Babies and very young children benefit from effective hygiene routines, such as good food hygiene, nappy changes with disposable gloves and use of antibacterial spray for surfaces, potties and highchairs. Bedding is washed every week. Children's growth and development is promoted by opportunities to use and enjoy appropriate toys and equipment. Suitable toys are provided such as rattles, soft toys and a baby gym. Teething babies are provided with toys to chew on which can give some relief. The children's wellbeing is promoted because when a child is upset the childminder gives reassuring cuddles. Children's good health is promoted through the effective records, which log accidents and any medication given. There is written permission from parents for seeking medical advice and treatment. Children benefit from appropriate procedures when they are sick because children do not attend when they are ill. If they are taken ill while with the childminder she contacts parents to discuss the nature of the illness and whether it is necessary for parents to collect. Pets are hygienically kept. After stroking or petting the dog children are reminded to wash their hands, especially before eating. Children enjoy lots of physical activity to help promote their physical development and they are allowed to keep to their own routines so they know when they need to sleep or rest. Children are happy and comfortable with the childminder.

The children are given choices and are provided with fresh drinking water, milk, squash, milk shake and sometimes fruit juice throughout the day. Children benefit from clear agreements with parents regarding food, which ensures their dietary/religious requirements are respected. Babies are fed at a time which fits in with their routine. Some parents provide pack lunches for their children; other children eat the same meals as the family. Children who eat with the family are given choices about food. They are able to decide the menu twice a week, on the other days the children are given meals with fresh foods, meat, vegetables and fruit, ensures that they receive a balanced diet. Children make healthy choices regarding the food they eat. Any special dietary needs would be recorded on the information sheet.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being able to access learning and play opportunities within safe boundaries because the childminder provides them with lots of opportunities to play and enjoy. Children find the setting welcoming because the necessary facilities are in place to promote their enjoyment and safe development. They have free use of the downstairs of the home and their

toys and equipment are easily accessible. The home is child orientated. Children have plenty of space which means they can move around freely, they have lots of room to extend their activities and learning opportunities.

Children play with toys which are checked regularly for hygiene and safety. Toys are checked at the end of every week as they are sorted and put away, broken equipment is thrown away. Baby equipment such as blankets, high chairs and baby seats are washed weekly. The furniture and equipment used helps to promote an accessible and stimulating environment for the children. Toys are stored at child height, which most children are able to freely access, although some younger children need help and have to ask. The childminder regularly rotates toys and equipment to give the children more choice and selection.

Children are developing a good awareness of how to help keep themselves and others safe because of positive steps taken. They understand house rules because the childminder takes time to explain why certain procedures are necessary. There is a written fire drill and emergency evacuation procedure which the childminder talks to older children about and practices with them termly. Children's welfare and safety is promoted through effective procedures including those for outings; the childminder has help from her older daughter to assist and sometimes the parents come as well. On local trips the older children are given boundaries and the younger children stay with the childminder. When travelling in the car the children all have their individual car seats and older children have booster seats. There is written permission from parents to take children in the car and on outings. Children are able to play with the pets under strict supervision and then are reminded to always wash their hands afterwards. Young children demonstrate an awareness of how to help keep themselves safe; a younger child climbing on a chair to reach a toy is reminded to get down carefully so that he does not fall, he immediately gets down backwards. Children's safety is promoted because appropriate equipment such as fire blanket and smoke alarms in the home help reduce risk of serious accidents. Hazardous equipment and materials and alcohol are all stored safely out of reach of the children.

Children's welfare is promoted because it is important to the childminder; she complies with local authority child protection procedures. She has experience of working with social services and with children in need. She has been involved in strategy meetings and knows the processes which need to be followed. The childminder is aware of recording existing injuries, parents are informed of this through the written policy, she knows who to contact if she has concerns. She is very aware of her vulnerability to accusation as are her family.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs and welfare are promoted because they have the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of activities. Activities are not planned in advance but the childminder decides on a daily basis what they will do according to the weather and which children are being cared for. Children enjoy and achieve during their time because they have a lot of attention and can choose from a good selection of age appropriate toys and games. Children receive a lot of praise, encouragement and support from the childminder as they play and learn. Children's learning is extended by challenges which encourage and extend known skills. Children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities are promoted as they enjoy a range of

freely accessible toys; these are rotated throughout the week so that there is variety and choice. Toys, resources, play and learning experiences cover all areas of development. Children enjoy social opportunities; the childminder runs a parent and toddler group once a week and she is also in the process of setting up a childminding support group. Children have the opportunity to meet and mix with other children in safe and secure surroundings. Children take part in physical activities which encourage their large motor development; this includes opportunities to go to the Play Barn and playing in the garden where they have access to equipment such as cars, bikes, a slide and ball games. Children show a high level of wellbeing and involvement as they make decisions about what they want to do and confidently choose from a range of freely accessible toys and resources. They come to the childminder for affirmation and support and enjoy their time and the activities provided. Babies and very young children enjoy being with childminder, they sit and play with her smiling, laughing and gurgling in response to her voice and smiles. Also laughing at the other minded children when they receive cuddles and attention. Young children show how they can make connections and extend some of the skills they have already learnt such as competently doing a simple jigsaw puzzle and then managing to do a much harder one, with guidance from the childminder.

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

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed and are treated according to their individual needs. The childminder cares for children from all walks of life and backgrounds. Children learn about the world around them and the people in it. They look at different festivals and celebrations from around the world throughout the year including Chinese New Year, Diwali, Christmas, Easter and other types of events. Children begin to understand about their differences and similarities. Children learn about themselves and the wider world from a range of resources promoting positive images of diversity such as dolls, books, puzzles, clothes and relevant television programmes. Young children and babies show a sense of belonging as they are acknowledged and affirmed. They demonstrate a sense of belonging and self assurance which is promoted by the childminder who gives them time and attention but also ensures that their own routine is kept and that their needs are met. They receive a lot of love and assurance.

Children with special educational needs are welcomed wherever possible and appropriate action taken for their care and ongoing assessment. The childminder cares for children with special needs and works closely with the parents to ensure that she understands their individual requirements and is able to meet the needs of each child. Children receive consistent care because the childminder attends groups and works with other agencies who are also involved in their care.

Children understand the expected behavioural boundaries set by the childminder. There are house rules which they are all aware of, this includes 'have fun and enjoy yourselves'. Children were involved in setting the house rules. The Childminder is a good role model for the children and manages their behaviour in a way that promotes their welfare and development. Distraction is used for younger children, time out is used for older children if necessary and any serious incidents of misbehaving are recorded and shared with parents so that they can work out

strategies to deal with the behaviour together. The strategies used are appropriate for ages and stages of development of the children cared for.

Children benefit from consistency of care because the childminder shares all relevant information with the parents including all her written policies and procedures. All the required information is recorded on the child's information sheet including any special requirements needed to help promote the wellbeing of their child. If any child has special requirements these are recorded on the children's information sheet. There is a record of complaints which is available to be shared with parents. The childminder is aware of the need to maintain confidentiality when sharing this with parents. Children's developmental progress is discussed with parents on a regular basis when they collect their child at the end of the day. They are kept verbally informed of their child's day or if there are any concerns which need to be addressed. Children's welfare is promoted by effective two way exchange of information between the childminder and parents.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are safe and well cared for because the childminder continually risk assesses and supervises children at all times. The childminder is extremely well qualified and has kept herself up to date with her training undertaking many courses to help improve the service she offers to parents and children. She is also a member of a recognised accredited childminding network and is a support childminder for newly registered minders.

Children's safety, welfare, care and learning are promoted very well by the effective policies and the childminder's positive attitude towards keeping herself up to date with new information and training. There have been significant changes to the adults living on the premises and the childminder has not yet informed Ofsted of these.

Children benefit from plenty of space to move around and freely access the toys and resources on offer, all of which are developmentally appropriate and meet the needs of the children attending. The record of attendance is up to date and shows clear arrival and departure times, and records when and why a child is not present.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the records and procedures required to provide a safe, secure and enjoyable environment for the children and to provide parents and carers with quality information about the care provided. All the required documentation for each child is available and is well kept. The registration certificate is displayed in the lounge. The accident/medication book is well kept as is the register. All information is confidential and safely stored. All documentation is readily available for inspection.

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 requested to:

Improve the safety of the back garden, she has erected a second gate at the bottom of the garden steps.

Ensure that criminal records bureau (CRB) procedures were followed for all persons over the age of 16 in the household. All adults now have a clear CRB check.

Expand the range of toys and resources which will help children appreciate and value cultural and physical diversity. The range of toys and equipment which help children to value diversity has increased.

Include a complaints procedure with an Ofsted telephone number in the statement of service. This has been done and there is also a complaints log.

Review policies and procedures to meet current requirements and good practice. The childminder has reviewed all her policies and procedures.

### **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 complaint 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):

- remove any confidential information from the complaints log
- extend the opportunities for younger children by having regard to the Birth to three matters framework
- inform Ofsted of any significant events including changes to adults no longer living on the premises

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)