



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	147691
<b>Inspection date</b>	16 March 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 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 2000. She lives with her partner and 2 children aged 9 and 2 in Broadstairs, 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 4 children, 2 under 5, of these not more than 1 may be under 1, at any one time. She is currently minding 3 children on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler groups.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

The premises, toys and equipment are clean. Effective procedures implemented by the childminder contribute to preventing the spread of infection. Children learn about good hygiene practice through the daily routine, for example, they wash their hands after using the toilet, playing in the garden and before eating. The childminder is introducing hand washing to babies and provides individual towels, bedding and flannels for them. A sick children's policy, excluding children who are infectious, prevents the spread of contagious ailments and promotes children's health. The childminder does not hold a current first aid certificate but is actively seeking registration to update her training.

Children are provided with healthy and nutritious meals such as fruit and vegetables. Children's dietary needs are known and respected. Some parents provide a packed lunch that is stored appropriately in the fridge. Readily accessible drinks throughout the day help to keep babies and children hydrated.

Garden play is undertaken in fine weather and children are taken out regularly to parks and toddlers where they have the opportunity to use large muscle equipment. These activities contribute to children's good health. The childminder has prepared the environment so that babies and toddlers learn to control their own body gaining physical skills appropriate to their stage of development.

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

The provision is good.

The premises are safe, and children are unable to leave the premises unsupervised. Regular informal assessments on the premises, well maintained toys and equipment ensures that children play in a safe environment.

Effective procedures for safe arrival and collection of children ensures that they are only collected by authorised adults. In addition procedures are in place for outings with the children. For example, the childminder takes children's details with her to enable her to contact parents in an emergency. She also applies appropriate safety measures such as ensuring children are strapped in a buggy and she teaches them about road safety. Children are learning to keep themselves safe in the childminder's home through gentle reminders. The childminder's sound knowledge of child protection issues contributes to their welfare and safety.

A fire blanket, carbon monoxide detector, and smoke alarms are in place and there is a fire evacuation plan. These contribute to children's safety. As yet, practise of fire safety has not been established.

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

The provision is good.

Children are contented and happy in the childminder's care. They are developing their confidence and self-esteem because she praises and encourages them and allows them to choose their activities. They are learning to be independent, for example, feeding themselves and helping to hold their bottles. Young children enjoy the company of the childminder and happily approach her to read a book. They respond with boos, as they find their voice when playing hide and seek with her. Musical toys, music and movement are popular with young children. They are learning to make connections in play, for example as they use play mats with buttons which play music.

Children are provided with a suitable range of toys by the childminder, who interacts positively with the children. She has introduced children to story sacks such as 'three little pigs'. She uses props to tell the story and extends the activity by colouring pictures from the story. Children enjoy activities away from the home setting and are developing relationships with other children; for example, they visit toddlers and childminding groups. She knows the children well and plans activities around their interests and their needs. She is keen to further develop her childcare knowledge and hopes to access the Birth to three matters framework training.

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

The provision is good.

Children are settled in the care of the childminder, who interacts positively with them. They are well behaved and respond positively to her praise and encouragement. Strategies, such as time out, help children understand about boundaries. Positive behaviour is encouraged through praise and encouragement. Children are learning to take turns, play co-operatively and share.

A child's record form details children's dietary needs, likes and dislikes, to help the childminder provide appropriate care. Children have access to a range of activities and resources to promote a view of the world and to increase their awareness of diversity and understanding of others; for example, books, fact finders and maps. As yet, resources that reflect positive images of disability are not available.

Effective communication from the childminder informs parents of the care that their children receive. Contracts recording business arrangements are in place; this ensures continuity of care. All the necessary prior written consents from parents are obtained. As yet, the childminder has not developed a complaints procedure to share with parents.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are secure and confident in the childminder's home because the routine includes quiet times, meal times and play times. Children are able to move around freely and safely. The childminder is keen to further develop her childcare knowledge

by attending the Birth to three matters framework training.

The registration certificate is kept in the childminder folder which she shares with parents, and has agreed to display it on the wall so that it is on view during childminding hours. The attendance register shows that the childminder complies with the conditions of her registration; however, it needs attention. All other required documentation for the safe and effective management of the setting and to promote the welfare and care of children is maintained. 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.

## **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):

- develop a complaint procedure and share with parents
- keep an accurate record of children's attendance
- update an appropriate first aid training.

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)