



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY339203
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 January 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Melissa Tickner
<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 2006. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and four in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. the whole of 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 maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children aged three and five on a part time basis including before and after school care. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and she attends the local parent/toddler group. 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 are developing a sound awareness of keeping themselves healthy as they are encouraged to wash their hands after playing with play dough and have their own individual hand towels and face cloths. The childminder reminds children to cover their mouths when they cough. These aspects help avoid the spread of infection. Children are provided with healthy meals such as sandwiches, spaghetti bolognese or shepherds pie. They are offered healthy snacks such as fresh fruit or raisins and drinks are set out so that children can help themselves. These aspects ensure children eat healthily and remain hydrated. Children benefit from physical activity outdoors in the garden in better weather, and local trips to the park and indoor play centres. They also walk to and from school on a daily basis. This helps children begin to develop an enjoyment of physical exercise. All relevant medical and health documentation is in place and the childminder has a valid first aid certificate. These aspects ensure she is suitably equipped to deal with an emergency, accidents or illnesses.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming home environment. Most areas of the house are safe with the exception of sharp knives currently being accessible in the kitchen, and the fire blanket is currently not wall mounted. These aspects may present a risk to children. Children have access to a suitable range of age appropriate toys and resources, many of which are accessible to them on low level shelving and set up in a corner of the dining area to encourage them to choose for themselves. The childminder promotes and maintains safety with children appropriately. For example, she ensures she supervises outdoor play and helps them as they use the stairs. This helps teach children to take care of themselves and keep them safe whilst in her care. The childminder has suitable systems in place for ensuring children's safety when on outings, and when playing outdoors. The childminder has a satisfactory awareness of child protection issues, which helps her to safeguard children in her care.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children arrive confidently and settle quickly, choosing their favourite toys such as the train set. They relate well to the childminder, showing they are settled in her care and confident to make choices and talk to her about what they are playing with. The childminder provides a range of age appropriate activities and toys for children; they are organised so that children can help themselves. For example a good variety of role play toys are set out such as a play kitchen, buggies, and an ironing board and toy Hoover. Children's needs are met as they are cared for appropriately. The childminder offers close support and interaction. She talks with them about the colours of the play dough, how to operate the play dough train and the shapes they are creating. As children move to new activities she encourages their interests and plays with them at floor level, interacting with them throughout the morning. This enables children

to feel settled and secure in her care. The childminder currently cares for children on an individual basis, allowing her to offer close one to one care. Activities such as trips to the toy library and local walks are also planned. As a result of these aspects, children are able to enjoy and achieve whilst in the childminder's care.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are met well, because the childminder supports them as they play and offers them encouragement. They are treated and well cared for as individuals. Children are cared for appropriately in a welcoming home environment. This helps children feel settled and well supported. They have access to a range of resources; however none currently reflect the differences in society; which means children are unable to begin to learn about diversity. Children are encouraged to behave well and the childminder makes use of praise to offer encouragement and support. For example she praises a child as he makes new creations with the play dough train. As a result, children are beginning to learn about good behaviour, and this helps contribute to building their self-esteem and confidence. There are appropriate methods used to work with parents. Parents are offered daily verbal feedback and use of a daily diary if they wish. This helps ensure children's needs can be met and parents are able to receive information about their children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder works from a well organised home environment, which meets children's needs appropriately. She has a clear set of documentation in place, which includes a set of policies. All required documentation is in place, with the exception of documentation relating to the complaints record. All other paperwork is up to date, signed, confidential and stored appropriately. The childminder maintains an organised approach to her childminding. The childminder has not attended any courses to update and extend her knowledge since first registering. 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**

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. 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 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 the fire blanket is wall mounted and knives in the kitchen are made safe or inaccessible
- develop and improve the range of toys and resources to promote diversity
- ensure legally required complaints documentation is in place

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)