

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY290347
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Melissa Turner
<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 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged five and 10 in Tunbridge Wells, 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding three children, two under five and one over five after school. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has a dog and two guinea pigs.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are developing a good awareness of positive hygiene procedures. They are encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water before snack and dry them with paper towels. The childminder promotes positive practices such as use of wet wipes to cleanse children's hands after painting and gluing and maintaining a clean and hygienic environment. These aspects

help avoid the spread of infection. Children are provided with healthy, freshly cooked meals, such as spaghetti Bolognese, and a menu planner shows a very healthy and varied range of meals are offered. Snacks, such as grapes, raisins and rice cakes, are provided, and help ensure children are well nourished and developing an awareness of healthy eating. Drinks are set out so that children can help themselves and ensure they remain hydrated. Children enjoy regular physical activity such as playing outdoors in better weather, frequent trips to the park and indoor physical play at toddler groups and activity centres. All relevant medical and health documentation is in place. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate. These aspects ensure she is suitably equipped to deal with accidents, emergencies or illnesses.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming home. They help themselves to a good range of toys and resources organised accessibly in a low level storage chest or clear plastic boxes. The childminder has a good awareness of keeping children safe. They are supervised well and their safety is promoted in practice. For example, the childminder talks to children about chewing their grapes carefully before swallowing and discourages them from running indoors. Good safety measures have been taken around the home which helps ensure children are well safeguarded in the childminder's care. Currently however, regular fire evacuations are not practised or recorded. Children are kept safe on outings through the childminder's procedures and supervision levels. The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedures to follow should she develop concerns and she has booked to attend a course in this aspect in the very near future. As a result, children's welfare and well-being is considered a high priority and is promoted by the childminder at all times.

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

The provision is good.

Children are settled, happy and contented in the childminder's care. She gives very good levels of care and support, sitting with them at their level, supporting them as they play. Children delight as they explore the play dough, talking about the colours and the cutters they have used. The childminder offers good support and demonstrations, helping children and guiding them as they play. She responds well to young children, and praises them and encourages them throughout all they do. She is organised for the day ahead, and plans arts and crafts activities the night before and children benefit from a well organised activity. They delight as they make a Valentines card, choosing from a range of resources to create their own picture. This leads to a painting activity where they use 'magic easy painters' which prompts a range of further discussions. The childminder helps children to build their independence as she encourages them to have a go, for example, helping to put the paint lids on and off themselves.

Although the childminder is not keeping a written record of her planning she does keep dated observations noted in 'tracker books', helping her to monitor children's progress and development. The childminder is familiar with the children's routines and care needs and ensures these are met. Children benefit from a wide range of activities which are organised and varied to provide children with an interesting day. Regular trips to toddler groups and to the park are organised. Time is also made for indoor play at home. Children enjoy helping themselves to a range of toys and resources set out for them at their level. The childminder has a very good rapport with the children, engaging them and interacting with them at their level, constantly

involving them and encouraging them. All of these aspects contribute to children enjoying and achieving and making strong progress whilst in the childminder's care.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for well as individuals. The childminder encourages children and helps them to feel valued and important. Children are offered cuddles, support and interaction. Consequently, they feel settled and secure in the childminder's care. There is a variety of appropriate resources promoting diversity, which contributes to children being able to learn about the diversity of our society.

The childminder manages children's behaviour positively. Children benefit from regular praise and enjoy being told how clever they are. The childminder reminds children how well they are doing and uses plenty of positive feedback. This helps them to feel settled and encouraged to behave well. As a result, children are building their self-esteem and confidence.

Parents are worked with in partnership. A range of positive references from parents praises the childminder's work with children. The childminder has a set of policies and procedures in place informing parents of her service and she feeds back to them on a daily basis. In addition, she keeps a daily routines sheet which details for parents all aspects of their children's care. The childminder regularly takes photographs of the children and presents these to parents via a slide show on her lap top, enabling them to see examples of the children's activities. These aspects help ensure children's needs can be met and parents are able to receive a full range of information about their children's care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder works from a child friendly home, providing children with a welcoming environment in which to play. She organises her home and the children's day to meet their needs and is committed to providing a good standard of care to all children. The childminder's organised approach to childminding is enabling her to promote good outcomes for children. An organised set of documentation is in place, which includes a clear set of policies and procedures. All required paperwork is in place, with the exception of a copy of the complaints record. The childminder is keen to update her knowledge of child development and has plans to attend courses this year. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection in January 2005, the childminder was asked to ensure low level glass panels were safe or inaccessible and that smoke alarms were fitted at every level of the house. The glass fronted cabinet has now been removed and a smoke alarm has been fitted at the ground floor level of the house, contributing to safeguarding children in her care.

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

Since the last inspection 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 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):

- consider practising a regular emergency escape plan and keeping a record
- ensure the complaints record is available

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)