



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	126859
<b>Inspection date</b>	08 August 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Jenny Kane
<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 1994. She lives with her husband and two teenage children in the Willesborough area of Ashford. The ground floor of the premises is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding seven children aged between two and ten years. School, pre-school, toddler group, shops and parks are nearby.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in clean and comfortable premises, maintained to a high standard where the childminder promotes children's health and well-being. The childminder maintains accident and medication records, has first aid resources available and she holds a current first aid certificate. As a result, she is able to act in the best interest of a child who has an accident or needs medication. Children bring packed lunches, which are stored suitably. They enjoy healthy snacks on arrival in from school, which include fresh fruit. The childminder takes into account the children's individual needs and complies with dietary requirements. Younger children rest and sleep when they need to in accordance with their parents' wishes. They have a warm and trusting relationship with the childminder who is quick to respond to their needs and this ensures they feel secure. Children engage in daily physical activities, which help to keep them healthy. Playing in the garden and trips to the local park, where they use the large play equipment, gives them the opportunity to develop their physical skills. Children walk to and from school each day, which helps them understand that exercise, is important for a healthy lifestyle.

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a spacious and welcoming environment, which means they can move about confidently and safely. The childminder takes positive steps to ensure children's safety and to minimise risks. Children enjoy a good range of toys and equipment, which are developmentally appropriate. The childminder regularly checks resources and removes broken or damaged toys. Children select what they play with from the toys, which encourages independence. They have access to the secure garden and a good selection of play equipment helps to create a stimulating outside play environment. The childminder plans outings carefully, ensuring she is organised and that the venue is suitable and safe for children. The childminder has a full knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures and has a commitment to safeguarding children's welfare. She intends to update her procedure and share it with parents.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. The daily routine is flexible and planned around the ages of the children attending and according to their capabilities. A good mix of activities indoors, in the garden and regular outings helps the childminder meet the developing needs of all the children. The childminder builds close and positive relationships with the children. She has good interaction with the children, gives help when needed and joins in with play. Children benefit from socialising and mixing with other children of similar age during visits to the local toddler group and outings in the community. Younger children receive good individual support, cuddles and reassurance. They have a secure bond with the childminder and her family and this supports their emotional wellbeing. The childminder has a sound

understanding of child development and she is aware of the Birth to three matters framework. She is keen to increase her knowledge of the development of young children and intends to access training in the framework.

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

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and show good attachment. They receive plenty of individual attention and make themselves at home. Children are valued and cared for according to their individual needs and the childminder treats them as family members. She speaks to parents regularly to ensure she meets any specific needs or requirements and this helps to maintain consistency of care. The childminder has a good awareness and is confident, in her ability to provide care for children with a range of abilities. The premises are user-friendly with good facilities and access. Children have access to a suitable variety of play materials, which reflect diversity and positive images. They begin to learn about differences within society through discussion and trips in the community. Appropriate behaviour management strategies according to the age and stage of children's development are effective. The childminder deals with incidents using distraction and 'time out'. She has reasonable expectations about what children can achieve and as a result, their behaviour is generally good. Children benefit from the strong and effective partnerships that have developed between the childminder and the parents. The childminder has a friendly yet professional approach, which provides children and their parents with continuity and stability.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her time effectively. She cares for a mix of ages but manages the routine well so that children receive plenty of attention while they are in her care. The day is well-planned, allowing children time for quiet and active play. Resources are organised on a daily basis, dependent on those children attending. Her flexible approach allows older children to organise and pursue their own activities and games. A support system established with another childminder ensures children receive appropriate care in the event of an emergency. The childminder has a good commitment to her personal development and training. She is keen to access courses and this is beneficial to the children in her care. Children's records are secure, and each child has its own file with all necessary information. All mandatory documentation is in place. The childminder is clear about the service that she provides. However, written information is limited and the policies need updating and sharing with parents. Parents' views and comments are welcomed and positively encouraged. This ensures that children are cared for according to their wishes and that the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

Since the last inspection, the childminder has implemented the recommendations to obtain from parents written permissions for children to travel in her car, receive emergency treatment and for her to administer medication.

### **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):

- ensure familiarisation with the Birth to three matters framework
- update and expand written policies and information about childminding practices to share with parents

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)