



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	110858
<b>Inspection date</b>	04 May 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Lisa, Marie Ellis
<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 has been registered since 1998. She lives with her husband and 3 of their children who are all aged over 8 years. They live in a house in a residential area of Gosport, Hampshire which is within walking distance to local schools, pre-schools, shops and parks. The ground floor of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The childminder currently has 8 children on roll, of which 5 are aged under 8 years. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and has a dog.



## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted as the childminder has effective systems in place regarding hygiene and healthy eating. The dietary needs of the children are met as most of the parents supply a packed lunch. Meals and snacks that the childminder provides are healthy and nutritious to ensure the children have a balanced diet. Children are provided with regular drinks to ensure they remain hydrated. The childminder has an annual visit from an environmental health officer which reflects that her handling and storage of food promotes the children's health. Children practice good personal hygiene routines such as washing their hands after toileting and before eating. The childminder has implemented good routines regarding her pets so that they do not pose a risk to children's health.

Children are protected from the spread of infection as the childminder excludes those that are unwell. She is able to deal with accidents promptly as she has recently updated her first aid qualification and stores her first aid kit accessibly. The childminder ensures that parents are informed of any accidents and maintains good records to reflect this. However, her recording of medication needs improvement to further promote the children's health.

Children's physical development is encouraged with the use of slides, ride-on toys, balls and racquets. Children play in the fresh air most days, either using the garden or visiting a local park.

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

The provision is good.

Children are closely supervised at all times and are accompanied in the garden to ensure their safety. They are cared for in a secure environment that is very clean and well maintained with all the relevant facilities to meet their needs. The childminder has identified potential hazards and has made them safe with the use of appropriately placed stair gates and cupboard locks.

Children are able to help themselves to an excellent range of resources that are regularly cleaned and checked for safety to ensure their care is not compromised. They are provided with a broad selection of learning opportunities as the childminder rotates equipment to maintain their interest. Children of all ages have access to a full range of equipment that promotes learning in all areas of their development.

Children are protected from the risk of harm whilst in the care of the childminder as she has a sound knowledge of the correct child protection procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from high levels of interaction with the childminder throughout their play. They are relaxed in her care, confident when entering her home and show an awareness of



routine by taking their shoes off on arrival and heading straight for the play room. A good range of activities both in and out of the home enable the children to keep busy and stimulated. The childminder regularly takes the pre-school children to a music group and a toddler group so they can interact with their peers.

Children's learning is promoted as the childminder talks about size, number, colour and shape during their play. She has a good understanding of the developmental needs of children and listens and responds to their questions appropriately. Children attending after school are offered a good range of planned activities as well as being able to relax and unwind, depending on how they are feeling.

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

The provision is good.

Children's needs are met as the childminder has full discussions with parents regarding particular requirements. Children have equal access to all activities and resources so they can all be fully involved in the setting. They are beginning to learn about the wider world as diversity is reflected in books and small world figures.

There is a written policy in place for behaviour management which is shared with parents and discussed with children that are old enough to understand. As most of the children have been coming since they were very young, they have a good understanding of the house rules and are very well behaved. Children are dealt with firmly but fairly to ensure they know the behavioural boundaries. They are praised when they behave well and are valued for their efforts to encourage them in the future.

New children are encouraged to visit with their parents before they are left with the childminder. This helps them to settle and enables the childminder to build up positive partnerships with parents to ensure consistency of care for the children. The childminder has devised a folder of information for parents detailing her policies and procedures so they are clear on what she does with their children. Feedback is given on a daily basis to keep parents informed of what their children have been doing. The childminder also provides written notes for parents of younger children detailing sleeps, feeds and toileting habits.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

All of the required documentation is in place. It is stored confidentially and shared with parents as necessary. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides as she ensures they are well cared for and protected from unvetted persons. Ratios are maintained at all times and the attendance register is up to date and accurate to promote the welfare of the children.



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

At the last inspection recommendations were raised. They related to smoke detectors, parental consent for taking photographs, acknowledgement from parents when medication is administered and for following correct child protection procedures.

The childminder now has linked smoke detectors on each floor to improve fire safety. She has signed consent from parents for permission to take photographs and is fully aware of the correct child protection procedures to follow to help protect children from harm. The childminder seeks written consent from parents for administering medication but her records do not reflect the actual time that medication was given and parents are not signing their acknowledgement once this has been done. Therefore this last point remains a recommendation for further improvement.

### **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 medication records show times that medication has been administered and acknowledgement signatures from 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)