



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	111922
<b>Inspection date</b>	20 April 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Loraine Wardlaw

<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.
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### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1996. She lives with her husband and their two children, one of whom is grown up. They live in a three bedroom house in Basingstoke, Hampshire. All areas of the home are used for childminding although the bedrooms are generally used for sleeping. There is a fully enclosed garden which is available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time, three of whom can be under five years. She is currently minding seven children, part-time, four of whom are under the age of four years and three are cared for in out

of school hours. The childminder is able to walk to the local shops and parks. She is also able to take and collect children from pre-schools and schools within the local area.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are being cared for in a clean home, where appropriate attention is paid to leading a healthy lifestyle. Older children learn suitable hygiene practices; they wash their hands before they eat, after playing at the park and use paper towels to help prevent cross infection. The childminder works with parents to ensure that children eat a balanced, nutritious meal each day, and encourages children to drink water and milk which contributes to their good health. She successfully adheres to incubation periods for childhood illnesses to protect children's health. Children have a range of regular opportunities to develop their physical skills and co-ordination; such as climbing at a soft play area, energetic play at the park or daily walks to school in the fresh air. Babies have plenty of space to crawl and toddlers receive sympathetic encouragement and guidance to help develop their physical skills. There is a procedure in place regarding the recording of medication administered, but the childminder does not obtain written consent from parents to administer all medications, which places children at risk and is a breach of regulation.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a suitably, safe indoor environment and enclosed garden which is neat and child friendly. Safety features such as a stair gates and door stops minimises the risk to children from accidental injury. Appropriate supervision of the children is offered according to the ages and needs of the children being cared for, which promotes independence but ensures their safety. Children learn the childminder's firm safety rules, especially when outside the home such as wearing a wrist strap when walking to school. Children can safely access a limited range of toys and resources, stored in boxes in the living area; but most of the quality and varied selection of toys are stored out of the young child's reach. Children are protected from harm well because the childminder is confident about her duty to report possible signs of abuse and keeps a record of children's existing injuries.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Young children are content and settled in the care of the childminder. They play with the toys selected for them, but, not all on offer to them are age appropriate and sufficiently stimulating to sustain their interest and effectively promote their learning. Children enjoy many social experiences outside the home when they access parent

and toddler groups and childminder groups. Here, they take part in painting and creative activities, but, the Birth to three matters framework is not being used by the childminder to enhance children's experiences within the home. Young children are building caring relationships with others and behave well. For example, a toddler cuddles a baby and holds the drinking cup of his peer. Children develop sound communication skills because the childminder is aware of how to promote language development. Babies receive appropriate care and attention by the childminder who attends to their individual care routines well to ensure they are happy.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are equally valued and are encouraged by the childminder to appreciate differences in one another through discussion. Toys and books which depict positive images of culture are sometimes available to them to play with or look at. Young children are encouraged to share and older children learn right from wrong through the clear guidance they receive. Suitable strategies are in place to help children modify their behaviour, such as a time out system. The childminder shows a positive attitude towards caring for children with special needs and works with parents to meet their individual needs. She builds a friendly communication system between herself and parents and has devised some written information regarding the care offered, which contributes to children's well being. However, not all the necessary parental consents are in place and the complaints procedure is not discussed with parents.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The caring childminder ensures that children are safe and happy in the relaxed, home environment. She is suitably qualified, but, is not up to date with the latest guidance to fully promote some of the outcomes for children successfully. Children enjoy a suitably organised day which involves them taking part in social activities outside the home. However, when time is spent indoors the childminder does not effectively organise the children's day or the toys to benefit the children, but, concentrates on meeting the children's physical and emotional needs. Adult to child ratios are adhered to by the childminder to ensure that children receive enough attention. Most of the required documentation is in place, is suitably maintained and shared with parents. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was required to provide a range of toys and resources that reflect the diversity in society. The childminder has increased her resources which help children develop an understanding of and to value differences. She was also required to review her storage of toys to ensure they are more easily

accessible to children, so that they can choose freely and safely from the range available. Although the childminder has reviewed her storage of toys, this remains a point for improvement as children can only play with the limited amount the childminder gets out for them each day, and not all of them are age appropriate for the children being cared for. This impacts on their enjoyment, learning and achievements.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. The childminder 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 consent is sought from parents before medicine is administered
- enhance the outcome for enjoying and achieving for under three year olds by using the birth to three matters framework
- organise play resources so children can choose freely from a good range of different toys and books suitable for their age
- ensure that consents are in place from parents and that parents are informed of the complaints procedure

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)