



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	112729
<b>Inspection date</b>	18 April 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Gill Moore
<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 has been registered since 1992. She lives with her husband and an adult child in a house in Horndean, near Portsmouth, close to local schools, shops and parks. All areas of the property are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family do not have any pets.

The childminder is registered to provide care for 6 children and is currently caring for 2 children under 5 years, 1 on a full time basis. The childminder is an active member of the Clanfield Childminders Group and runs St. Wilfreds toddler group.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is well maintained because the childminder implements effective health and hygiene policies to ensure the risk of cross infection is minimised. She has completed relevant first aid training and deals with accidents effectively recording and sharing information appropriately with parents. Children's health requirements are known and the childminder implements effective procedures to administer medication to children, ensuring they remain healthy. However, children's health is not assured in an emergency situation because written consent has not been obtained from parents to seek emergency medical treatment.

Children begin to gain an understanding of how to look after their bodies, for example they are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet following good personal hygiene routines. Their dietary requirements are fully met as the childminder serves all meals provided by children's individual parents. Children receive regular snacks, such as biscuits or pieces of fruit from the childminder, which helps them begin to gain an understanding of healthy eating. They benefit from daily opportunities to engage in physical activities and enjoy opportunities to play outside in the fresh air. Children develop their co-ordination and climbing and balancing skills using equipment, such as the climbing frame and slide in the childminder's garden as well as using larger apparatus at local parks. This helps them understand the importance of taking regular exercise as part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is ensured inside the childminder's home and garden because she removes all potential risks and hazards. For example, plug sockets and dangerous substances are inaccessible and sheds and greenhouses are kept locked and secured with fencing preventing children from accessing these areas. Children are kept safe when using the childminder's car as appropriate seats and belts are in place and arrangements to ensure their safety on outings are discussed and agreed with parents. However, written consent has not been obtained from parents for their child to go on visits with the childminder, or to travel in her car, which compromises their safety should an accident occur.

Children benefit from being able to move freely and safely around the childminder's home and garden and space is well used to maximise opportunities for children to participate in a range of activities and experiences. They have independent access to a suitable and safe range of equipment and play provision, which is suited to their ages and stages of development. Effective procedures are implemented to ensure the provision is regularly checked, kept clean and well maintained, which contributes to ensuring children's safety. Children are well protected and safe guarded from harm because the childminder has an appropriate understanding of her role with regards to child protection issues. She has completed training in this area and is aware of the different types of abuse, recognising possible signs and symptoms that may cause concern. The childminder has an appropriate understanding of the records required to be kept and knows the procedures to follow should she be concerned about a child in her care ensuring their

wellbeing is promoted. Effective systems are in place to ensure the safe arrival and collection of children, which ensures their safety is not compromised.

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

The provision is good.

Children develop warm trusting relationships with the childminder and very much enjoy their time in her care. They are extremely happy and content, and thrive during the time they spend in the setting. Babies snuggle up for a cuddle and enjoy looking at books with the childminder. They develop their senses using a range of play equipment, for example as they feel different textures, watch the flashing lights and bounce up and down when the music begins to play. Children enjoy opportunities to be imaginative and creative using a range of construction materials, writing tools and equipment such as dolls and cars to express their real and imagined ideas.

Interaction between children and the childminder is extremely positive and the childminder sits on the floor playing with children. They become skilful communicators because the childminder uses words and gestures responding to babies babbles and introducing new skills and knowledge. Children benefit because the childminder recognises the importance of play in a child's development and provides a good range of exciting and stimulating activities and experiences, which are suitable to their individual ages and stages of development. She has a good knowledge of child development and knows how to provide appropriate stimulation helping young babies to acquire new skills and enabling children to build on these and develop new ones. Children's understanding of shape, number, colours and letters is re-enforced as the childminder uses a good range of books, puzzles and games, and encourages them to develop their independence as they select their own equipment making their own decisions about what they want to play with.

Children have plenty of opportunities to develop their social skills and play alongside other young children as they attend a toddler group, run by the childminder, enabling them to develop an understanding of sharing, taking turns and securing relationships with their peers. They benefit from opportunities to go on planned outings and visits, for example to Petersfield Heath and Emsworth Lake as well as enjoying regular trips to the local park with the childminder.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop secure relationships with the childminder and become increasingly self assured developing a sense of belonging. They benefit because the childminder values them as individuals and has a very good knowledge of their individual needs and family and home circumstances enabling them to thrive whilst in her care. She actively promotes positive behaviour, which impacts on children's confidence and self esteem and the relationships they build with one another. Children begin to gain an understanding about the similarities and differences between themselves and others as the childminder encourages them to value themselves and their peers gaining an understanding about diversity. For example, discussions with the childminder,

planned activities and the use of stories and resources reflecting diversity help children to learn about different customs and cultures, including Diwali and Chinese New year.

All children are valued and their individual needs fully met. The childminder has a positive attitude towards caring for children with special needs and for whom English is an additional language and has attended much training in this area enabling her to increase her understanding of a variety of different conditions and disabilities.

Children benefit from very secure informal relationships between the childminder and their parents enabling them to settle well and feel self assured. Detailed information is exchanged verbally, including details about what children have eaten, activities they have been involved in and trips out ensuring parents are well informed about what their child has been involved in on a daily basis. Parents are well informed about the service the childminder provides. However, they are not advised of the procedure should they wish to make a complaint about the setting.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit because the childminder knows them well and is highly effective in the way she organises her day ensuring she spends individual quality time with each child. She makes very good use of her home and resources providing a relaxed and friendly environment in which children are well cared for and outcomes for children are successfully promoted. Consequently, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Children are protected because the childminder keeps most of the required documentation and has a generally good understanding of the requirements of her registration. However, she has overlooked the requirement to obtain written consent from parents in some areas and to keep details of the hours and times children are in her care for the required period of time, as outlined in the regulations. Children benefit because the childminder has many years experience of looking after young children and regularly updates her skills and knowledge by attending regular training. She is an active member of a childminding group and meets regularly with other childminders recognising the importance and value of this for both herself and the children she cares for.

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

At the last care inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that the full names of children are included in the attendance register and the signature of parents is obtained for payments. This procedure is now implemented, although records of children's attendance were not available at the time of inspection as the childminder had recently re-organised her documentation and had not recognised the requirement to keep these records for a specified period of time.

She was also asked to obtain written permission from parents for transporting children in a vehicle. Written permission was immediately obtained following the last inspection, however this has not been obtained from parents of the children currently being cared for, which

compromises their safety should an accident occur whilst being transported in the childminder's car.

### **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 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):

- obtain written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment and written permission for children to go on outings and be transported in the childminder's car
- develop a system to investigate and record details of any complaints, making the details available to parents
- ensure records relating to children's attendance are kept for the required period as set out in the regulations

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)