



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY311716
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 March 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Maureen Croxford

<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 2005. There are currently 2 children on roll. She lives with her husband and young family in a house in Petersfield which is within walking distance of local shops, schools and parks. The whole of the ground floor is available for child care and sometimes children have access to the first floor. There is a rear garden offering a suitable environment for outside play. The family have one dog as a pet.

The childminder is registered to care for 3 children under 8 years, of whom no more than 2 may be under 5 years, including 1 child under 1 year. The registration does

not include overnight care.

The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and receives support from a mentor from the local authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

The childminder's very clear understanding of the required procedures regarding accidents and the administration of medication protects children in her care. She ensures that parents are kept informed at all times, as they are required to sign consent forms and acknowledge the entries made in the records.

The childminder promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection, for example, she provides children with individual towels. She ensures that animals on the premises do not pose a health risk. Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through discussion, activities and the childminder acting as a good role model. They are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times, thus developing their self-care skills and independence.

Children are developing a good understanding of healthy eating because the childminder provides a wide selection of nutritious snacks. She offers children regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs, which complies with their dietary requirements and the parent's wishes. The childminder ensures that food is hygienically stored and prepared.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The premises are extremely secure, safe and suitable for their purpose. They provide ample space, are very welcoming to children and offer access to the necessary facilities for an excellent range of activities, which promote their development.

The furniture, equipment and toys provided are appropriate and help to create an easily accessible and very stimulating environment. They are of suitable design and condition and conform to safety standards. Children have excellent access to their toys and equipment, as they are all stored in low-level storage units situated in the lounge and dining room. The childminder ensures that all toys and equipment are stimulating, fun, interesting and promote the children's learning. The toys and resources provide sufficient challenges for children.

The childminder takes very positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings, and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents. She is extremely aware of potential hazards and reduces risks both inside and outdoors by carrying out a simple risk assessment before children arrive at the provision. Children

are kept safe as the childminder has an appropriate evacuation plan in place and has identified a place of optimum safety.

Children are protected as the childminder has very effective systems for the safe arrival and collection of children. She ensures children are safe at all times as she has attended training and has a very good knowledge of child protection issues. She has an understanding of the possible signs of abuse and neglect.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder carefully plans and provides many stimulating activities and play opportunities to help children make progress in all areas of development. She has an exceptional understanding of children's developmental needs and participates fully during activities. Children have many opportunities to develop a range of skills in an exciting and interesting environment.

The childminder plans activities to interest each child. This motivates the children and they become engrossed in the challenging activities that are provided. The children are comfortable and relaxed in the provision. They are very easily able to access their own toys and resources, which are stimulating and challenging, such as craft activities, books and games.

The childminder is interested in what children do and say. She interacts extremely well with them, including conversation, cuddles, eye contact, and offers praise and encouragement appropriately. She knows when to allow play to develop, enabling children to work things out for themselves, allowing child to reach their full potential at their own pace.

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

The provision is good.

Childminder actively promotes equality of opportunity and takes into account children's individual needs. She is aware that some children may have special needs and works closely with parents to provide any special services required. Children benefit from being cared for in an environment where their individual needs and lifestyles are respected. The childminder offers them opportunities to find out about other cultures and caring for others, such as taking turns and sharing.

Children behave very well and have a clear understanding of the house rules. The childminder uses appropriate strategies to manage behaviour, such as distraction and explanation. She takes into account the children's level of understanding and maturity and uses praise to promote acceptable behaviour. The childminder encourages the children to be polite and be responsible for the equipment they use.

Partnership with parents is good. The childminder has developed strong relationships with the children's parents. Children's individual needs are met very well through the sharing of clear information, both written and verbal, with parents, which also ensures

consistency of care. The childminder gives parents a well-presented portfolio telling them about the provision and her family. However, this does not include information about the provision's policies and procedures.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has an understanding of the requirements of her registration and the inspection process. She continues to develop her knowledge of child development. She plans the daily routines for children and organises the space within her home extremely well to ensure that they are very well cared for and their individual needs met.

Children benefit from a very welcoming, safe, secure and stimulating environment. The childminder organises the daily routines very well and offers many play opportunities suitable for the children's stage of development. The children enjoy their time in the provision because resources and activities provide sufficient challenges, are well planned and easily accessible.

All legally required documentation is comprehensive, detailed, and accurate and shared with parents. All records, which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision, are up-to-date and readily available. Records about individual children are shared with the children's parents.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **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):

- further develop documentation shared with parents to include aims, policies and procedures.

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)