



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	131331
<b>Inspection date</b>	31 July 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Lisa 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 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 1989. She is registered to provide care for six children under eight years and currently provides care for three children on a part-time basis. She lives with her husband and two grown up sons in a house in the Bitterne area of Southampton, Hampshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The family have a cat and a dog. The childminder attends local toddler groups on a regular basis and is a member of the Southampton Childminders Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's dietary needs are met as parents supply most of the food which the childminder stores appropriately and reheats as necessary. Children benefit from having healthy snacks such as fruit to help them have a nutritious diet. Drinks are provided on a regular basis to ensure children remain adequately hydrated.

Children are protected from the spread of infection as the childminder excludes those that are unwell to reduce the risk of cross contamination. Children are learning hygiene practices as the childminder acts as a role model by washing her hands after changing nappies.

Children are able to be dealt with promptly after having accidents as the childminder has a current first aid qualification and stores her first aid kit accessibly. Parents have provided their written consent for the childminder to seek emergency medical treatment to ensure that the welfare of the children is safeguarded. However, full names are not always recorded in the accident book.

Children's physical development is promoted as they make use of the garden and go on regular walks to get fresh air and exercise to help promote healthy lifestyles.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment where the childminder has identified potential hazards such as sockets and stairs and made them safe to reduce the risk of accidents. Children have access to the ground floor of the property where there are facilities for playing, resting, eating and toileting. Children are supervised in the home and accompanied in the garden to promote their safety. Both the home and garden are secure to prevent children leaving unnoticed or visitors entering without warning. Children are beginning to learn about fire safety as the childminder talks to the children about this subject each month when she tests her smoke detectors.

Children have the use of a range of toys and equipment to meet their developmental needs. Resources are stored in low-level plastic boxes that are labelled so children can easily identify what they would like to play with to increase their personal independence and give them choices in what they do.

Children are generally protected when in the care of the childminder as she has updated her knowledge of child protection issues by attending training. She is aware of the need to record and report concerns about children's welfare to promote their well-being. However, their welfare is not fully safeguarded as not all household members have been appropriately vetted.

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

The provision is good.

Children are provided with activities in and out of the home although the majority of the time they are out and about with the childminder. They are regularly taken to toddler groups where they participate in a range of activities that cover all areas of learning. Children have frequent opportunities to interact with their peers at different groups and when visiting other childminders. This helps to develop their social skills as they learn about sharing and taking turns.

Children are taught about the wider world through a selection of educational posters that are displayed in the play room and by the childminder talking to them about what they can see, for example, baby animals and the noises they make. They are learning about road safety as the childminder talks to them about safe crossing as she walks everywhere with the children.

Children have time to relax during the day and are able to watch limited children's programmes on the television to wind down, particularly the older children after being at school all day. Children's individual needs are met as the childminder has been caring for them since they were babies and therefore knows them very well. She is responsive to children's demands such as feeding and sleeping times. They are relaxed in her care, for example, going and sitting on her lap to be gently rocked to sleep while having a bottle.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are met through discussion with parents about children's basic routines. These routines are followed as closely as possible to ensure consistency of care for the children. Parents are encouraged to visit with their children before they are left to help them settle in and get to know the childminder. There are some written policies and procedures that are available regarding the childminder's practice should parents ask to see them. Feedback is given on a daily basis to inform parents of what their children have been doing and how they have been.

Children have access to a good selection of books and resources that reflect the wider world. These provide images of people from the wider community and tell stories of different religions and festivals, showing diversity in society. The childminder integrates all of her resources so children play with toys that promote equality on a daily basis.

Children benefit from the childminder's firm but fair approach to managing behaviour. There are basic house rules in place such as being kind to each other and treating the toys with respect. Children learn these boundaries as they go along and are gently reminded of them by the childminder as necessary. Children are praised for positive behaviour to encourage them for the future.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care. She is an experienced childminder who keeps up to date with training by attending short workshops to enhance her childminding provision.

All of the required paperwork is in place although some aspects, such as the register, are not maintained sufficiently. Documentation is stored accessibly, confidentially and is shared with parents where appropriate. Ratios are maintained at all times to ensure children's safety.

Children are protected from unvetted persons as they are never left unattended with them.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection six recommendations were raised. The first was for the childminder to develop her understanding of child protection issues which she has done by attending a training session. She now has a written child protection policy in place and has up to date information from the local authority detailing action to take should she have concerns about a child's welfare.

The second recommendation was to ensure the safety of unused sockets which she does by ensuring they all have covers in place to reduce the risk of accidents and to promote children's safety. The third was to ensure children have access to resources that reflect diversity. She has addressed this recommendation by displaying posters and providing children with books, dolls and small world figures that promote positive images of people from around the world.

The fourth recommendation was to provide children with access to a broader range of role play resources which she has done by providing them with dressing up clothes and providing opportunities for them to use their imaginations with equipment such as a play kitchen and work bench.

The fifth issue was to ensure the safety of the garden. The childminder has done this by ensuring the children can play in a safe environment where the old dismantled climbing frame has been removed and all sheds are padlocked to prevent children from accessing them.

Finally the childminder was asked to improve fire safety. She now keeps a log of her monthly smoke detector tests, has devised a written floor plan showing points for evacuation and speaks to the children about fire drills to develop their understanding of how to keep themselves safe should there be a fire.

## **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):

- improve documentation to show children's full names in all paperwork and the actual times of attendance in the register
- ensure all household members have been appropriately vetted.

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)