



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	111161
<b>Inspection date</b>	08 August 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Tonia Chilcott
<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 was registered in 1993. She lives with her husband and two children, one adult child and one aged over eight years, in Titchfield Common, Hampshire. All areas of the property are available for childminding, however this normally occurs downstairs, and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding six children on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and or disabilities. She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to develop good hygiene practices, they understand the need to wash their hands regularly. They confidently select their own individual towels and flannels, that are colour coded for each individual child. Individual washing materials are used effectively to protect children from the spread of infection. Children benefit from the childminders highly effective procedures relating to health. For instance, the written procedures to protect children from infection, are well thought out and understood by the childminder, who ensures that parents are also fully aware of her procedures.

Children enjoy snack and meal times that are relaxed, social occasions with children all sitting up to the table together. Children access a wide range of healthy and nutritious meals and snacks, should parents not select to provide packed lunches. A full written menu is available to parents, taking into account both the individual needs of the children and preferences of parents and children alike. Children take part in a wide range of activities which promote their physical development such as, climbing and running in the local park, walks to local amenities such as the beach and playing in the garden.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment that remains secure at all times. Space is used well, allowing children to play comfortably. They freely make choices from the good range of toys and materials that are easily accessible to them, and learn about the wider world through the good range of resources that promote positive images. The childminders effective procedures to maintain and clean toys and materials, ensure that children only access resources that are safe, clean and appropriate for their needs.

Children's safety is promoted by the childminder who has a sound awareness of most safety issues. Children learn about fire safety and how to safely leave the home in the event of an emergency. Effective procedures to check fire safety resources such as the smoke alarms, contributes to children's overall safety, however, although a fire blanket is readily available, this is not fitted correctly, thus a small risk remains. Children learn about keeping themselves safe through a range of activities. For example, they learn about road safety whilst out of the home, with practical examples whilst out walking. Children are very well protected by the childminder who has an excellent understanding of child protection issues and procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled within the care of the childminder. They confidently make choices regarding the activities that they wish to take part in and happily ask the childminder for support and help if they need it. Children enjoy looking at books and reading with the childminder, often repeating their favourite parts of the story. Their learning is extended by

the childminder, who gently and effectively questions the children, enabling them to learn about colour, for instance. Children's individual daily routines are supported and acknowledged, through the childminder's understanding of their individual needs. Information is gathered from parents when the children first attend, allowing the childminder to quickly identify the children's individual needs, and interests, allowing her to effectively plan activities to support children's learning. Children thoroughly enjoy their time with childminder, happily involving her in their play, particularly whilst involved in imaginative play whilst pretending to prepare picnics.

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

The provision is good.

Children behave very well in response to praise and encouragement. Their behaviour is managed consistently and positively by the childminder, who has effective procedures in place to record and share information with parents. Children access a good range of resources and activities which help them understand their own needs and those of others, and promote a positive view of the wider world. For example, children enjoy books, dolls and puzzles, all providing positive images. Children's needs are well met by the childminder's procedures to share information with parents on a regular basis. Parents are provided with excellent written information relating to the routines and practices of the childminder, ensuring that they remain fully informed. The childminder shows a positive attitude towards inclusion and would work closely with parents to support children with special needs

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder is using and maintaining appropriate records to safeguard children's welfare; however, occasionally the childminder does not update the daily record as children arrive. Children benefit from the well thought out environment. Indoor space is well laid out allowing children room to play comfortably and freely. Children are confident in the environment and consequently, are able to initiate play and make their own choices. The childminder has written policies and procedures in place, which are used well, to promote the welfare and care of the children and are shared with parents. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that the banister was made safe. This has been completed, ensuring that children remain free from hazards whilst accessing the first floor of the home.

The childminder was also asked to improve communication with parents regarding taking photographs of children. Parents now sign to acknowledge that they agree to the childminder taking photographs of the children.

### **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 that the fire blanket is mounted appropriately, to enable ease of access in the event of a fire
- ensure children's times of arrival are promptly recorded within the register.

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)