



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	112723
<b>Inspection date</b>	31 July 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Carole Argles
<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 1993 and may provide care for five children under eight years, including no more than three children aged under five. At present, she provides part-time care for two children aged under five and nine children aged five to nine years.

The childminder lives with her husband and three children, two of whom are teenagers, in West Totton, Hampshire. Her home is within walking distance of all local amenities including schools, shops and parks. All areas of the property are available for childminding. However, children are usually cared for on the ground floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder regularly meets with other childminders.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

The children's good health is well supported by the childminder. She takes effective precautions to minimise the spread of infection between children. For example, she provides disposable paper towels for hand drying and keeps her home and the equipment clean and hygienic. She does not care for children when they are ill or infectious. She ensures that food is stored correctly in the refrigerator. Children learn good hygiene routines and always wash their hands before eating or after using the toilet. The childminder helps young children learn how to wash their hands properly, explaining why this is important. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a well-stocked first aid kit readily available. She keeps suitable accident records, which she shares with parents so that they are fully aware of any incident involving their child.

The childminder and parents share responsibility for providing food and the children receive a healthy and nutritious diet. Drinks are readily available for them in named cups. The childminder provides healthy snacks and meals, which include a wide range of fresh fruit and vegetables. Children are encouraged to try a variety of foods and they make choices about what they eat. They take part in cooking activities, making wholesome foods including pizzas and fruit smoothies, and sometimes try foods from different cultures. This increases their interest and enjoyment of a range of foods and promotes a healthy diet.

The childminder rarely uses her car and the children frequently walk to school and local venues including parks and shops; sometimes they walk to the nearby forest for picnics or to play. They have opportunities to use physical play equipment, for example balls and wheeled toys in the childminder's garden and more challenging equipment at local parks. This supports their physical development well and effectively promotes a healthy lifestyle.

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

The provision is good.

The premises are well-maintained and comfortably furnished, with ample space for the children to move around and play in safety. The childminder makes good use of her home and has a separate playroom with a wide variety of toys and activities readily available for children to select from shelves. There are many displays of children's artwork and posters creating a child-friendly environment where the children feel comfortable and secure. The ground floor cloakroom is readily accessible.

The risk of accidental injury to the children is minimised by the childminder who has a good understanding of safety issues. She keeps the house and garden secure and uses appropriate safety equipment, for example cupboard locks and stair gates to restrict children's access to potentially hazardous areas. The toys and equipment are of good quality and are safe and suitable for the children to use. The childminder has suitable fire safety precautions in place and children have regular opportunities to practise the fire evacuation plan. The childminder is careful to ensure that the children are well supervised when out and keeps them close to

her. They begin to learn how to keep themselves safe through discussions with the childminder who sometimes uses a book to help them learn about road safety and other issues like 'stranger danger'.

The children's welfare is well supported because the childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection issues and understands the action she should take if she concerned about the welfare of a child in her care. She ensures that only authorised adults collect the children and that they do not have unsupervised contact with people who have not been vetted.

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

The provision is good.

The children are confident and settled, and have a relaxed and friendly relationship with the childminder and her family. There is plenty of conversation and interaction between them and young children go readily to the childminder for comfort or assistance. The children play well together, and are interested in the activities and keen to take part. They receive praise and encouragement for their achievements and this promotes a good self-esteem and gives them confidence to try new tasks. The childminder plans interesting activities and outings, for example, trips to a local farm. Younger children often have the opportunity to meet and socialise with their peers in the care of other childminders. The childminder plans and prepares some activities in advance but is flexible allowing the children to make choices. The playroom is well-planned so that children can see select toys and books independently and follow their own interests. There is a low table and chairs where they can draw or paint, and ample space for pretend play in the conservatory area.

There is a good range of toys and activities to support all areas of children's learning and development. This includes many resources for creative activities like mosaic and collage, as well as books, puzzles and pretend play. The childminder takes advantage of opportunities during children's play to extend their learning and thinking. For example, she asks the older children their address and phone numbers as they are making library tickets for their game and talks with younger children about numbers and colours. Children of all ages are included in the activities because the childminder adapts them according to their abilities. For example, she suggests that older children write a list of things they can look for on a planned treasure hunt, whilst the youngest child draws pictures of them. The children are happy and well-occupied at all times.

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

The provision is good.

The children behave well and play cooperatively together, sharing fairly and taking turns. The childminder has a good understanding of positive ways to manage their behaviour and has consistent, age-appropriate expectations for them. She uses distraction to another activity to diffuse unwanted situations, and gives children explanations, for example, to encourage them to consider the feelings of others, so they understand what is expected of them. Children receive praise so that they understand when they have done well and this helps them learn to manage their own behaviour effectively.

The children benefit from the good relationship between the childminder and their parents who talk about their care daily. This helps to ensure there is continuity in their care and that their individual needs are met and routines followed so that they feel comfortable. The childminder respects parents' wishes for their child. She monitors the children's development informally, bringing any concerns to their parents' attention so that they can seek further advice if appropriate. The childminder establishes good relationships with new parents and their children, meeting with them before they start to share information and to ensure that the child becomes familiar with their surroundings. This approach helps them to settle quickly. The childminder is flexible to parents' work patterns, providing part-time care for their children.

The children begin to find out about the lives and traditions of others through activities, books and stories. They try food from different cultures, including Indian and Chinese, and celebrate Christian and other festivals. This approach helps them to develop a positive and accepting attitude towards others.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. The children benefit from her sound organisational skills. She always keeps to the required adult to child ratios and organises her time so that she can give the children plenty of attention and support. She makes effective use of her home to meet the children's needs, having areas where they can take part in different types of activity or rest undisturbed.

She keeps the required records and consents and has a range of policy statements that she shares with parents. However, she is not familiar with recent changes to the National Standards including how she must address any written complaints from parents.

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

At the previous inspection, the childminder agreed to record the times of children's arrival and departure in her register, to request written parental consent for emergency medical treatment or advice, and to have an appropriate range of resources which reflect diversity.

Since then, the childminder has recorded the times of children's attendance and obtained the necessary written consents from parents. This has enhanced the children's safety and welfare. Children have ready access to a suitable range of toys and books which show positive images of diversity and this helps to increase their awareness of others in society. The childminder is intending to extend the range of items further by obtaining resources which reflect disability.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004.

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):

- develop your knowledge and understanding of the changes to the National Standards, including how any written complaints from parents must be addressed.

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)