



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	155399
<b>Inspection date</b>	16 August 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Karin Lane
<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 1999. She lives with her husband and two children aged 11 and 13 in Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex. The playroom, conservatory and kitchen on the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. The garden is not included in the childminder's registration and is not used.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding five children under five part-time and two children over five before and after school. The childminder mostly drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends and helps run a local parent and toddler group. The family keep pet fish.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health is well-promoted because effective procedures are in place. For example, children wash their hands routinely after messy play, using the toilet and before meals. They have individual hand towels which minimises the risk of cross-contamination. Any accidents which children have are managed appropriately as the childminder has up-dated her first aid training and has a first aid kit to hand. Parents have given written permission for emergency treatment and general medication. However, children's well-being is somewhat compromised as although the childminder requests details of specific medication, parents are not asked to give prior permission at that time. Children benefit as they visit local parks and regularly use equipment, including a ball pool and bouncy castle at parent and toddler group, which enhances the development of their large muscles. Children enjoy healthy snacks of fruit and can help themselves to drinks from cups kept in the playroom ensuring they remain hydrated.

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

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe because the childminder has identified and minimised hazards in her home; these measures are clearly documented in her safety policy. For example, chemicals are kept out of reach, a safety gate is used effectively and the front door is kept locked which promotes children's safety. Children are well-supervised because they remain within the childminder's sight at all times. Children learn to keep themselves safe when on outings as the childminder discusses road safety with them. The use of car restraints, pushchair harnesses and using pedestrian crossings all contribute to the safety of children. Children have sufficient space in the playroom and conservatory in which to play, and can easily access the range of safe toys and resources available for them. Children's well-being is mostly supported because the childminder understands her responsibilities regarding child protection, and knows what to do in line with local procedures. However, she does not have all procedures to refer to for reference.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from an interesting range of activities and experiences. These include for example visits to the library, a music club, messy play and stories. Children have a good rapport with the childminder who devotes her time to playing with them. They talk together as they play which helps develop children's communication skills. Children enjoy familiar books naming and identifying what they see. Children's eye and hand co-ordination is enhanced by playing with appropriate construction toys. For example using a toy screwdriver to tighten and loosen the parts of a toy helicopter. Young children are helped to learn their colours by the childminder whilst playing games, identifying for example yellow and blue skittles. Children carefully lay wooden bricks in a line to use as a track and are becoming aware of numbers as they count "one, two, three". Children are happy, confident and very well-settled in the childminder's care.

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

The provision is good.

Good partnership with parents supports the care of children effectively. Parents can access the childminder's informative website for details of the service she provides; they receive monthly newsletters about activities and reminders for example, to provide hats and sun-cream in hot weather. Communication is enhanced by daily discussion and diaries for younger children detailing their day. Children's individual needs are well-met due to close partnership with parents and there are suitable plans in place if the childminder is approached to care for children with special needs. Toys and equipment are likely to appeal to both boys and girls. They learn about diversity by for example making shakers to celebrate Chinese new year. Children behave well because the childminder has devised good measures in line with their stage of development. They like receiving stickers to reward good behaviour and a "things I like about you" book details what children have done well such as helping to clear away the toys. Children are given clear explanations to help them understand the impact of their behaviour. Older children can refer to the childminder's house rules " the golden rules" which are displayed on the notice-board in the playroom.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Documentation is mostly well-kept and supports the care of children. Attention is given to confidentiality as documents are stored in a filing cabinet. Records and policies are regularly up-dated and the childminder ensures she is conversant with amendments to regulations, including having a procedure in place to record any complaints made by parents. Children benefit because the childminder has a positive attitude to developing her knowledge and skills. She has completed a level three qualification in childcare and attended courses including working in partnership with parents and promoting positive behaviour. Play areas are made a welcoming environment by accessible resources and the display of posters and children's craft work.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last care inspection the childminder agreed to obtain up-to-date information about local procedures for child protection and communicable diseases.

The childminder is conversant about how to protect children from harm in-line with local procedures, but does not have sufficient written information to refer to if she is concerned about a child. Without this specific information it is difficult for her to assess the risk to a child.

There has been some improvement as the childminder has obtained an up-to-date document about communicable diseases. The document has been kept upstairs and the childminder intends to keep this documentation in her port-folio for ready reference in the future.

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

There have been no complaints since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they may 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 prior written permission is obtained from parents before any medicines are given to children
- obtain information about local area child protection committee procedures and guidance to refer to.

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)