



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	131453
<b>Inspection date</b>	31 July 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Clare Moore

<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 was registered in 1998. She lives with her school age daughter in the Freemantle area of Southampton. The ground floor of the property is used for childminding, a first floor room for sleeps and an enclosed garden for outside play.

She is registered to provide care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time and is currently minding seven children on a part time basis. Of these two are under five years of age and four are of school age.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are strongly encouraged to develop a very healthy lifestyle. They are offered nutritious home prepared food at meal and snack times and frequent drinks with a choice of water or milk to quench thirst. Children enjoy fresh air and exercise. They frequently use an extensive range of equipment at the park to climb, balance, slide, run and play ball. This helps them to keep fit and active and also gives them frequent opportunities to refine and develop their physical skills.

Children are cared for in a home with a good standard of comfort and cleanliness. They learn the importance of washing their hands through consistent guidance from the childminder and show their knowledge by reminding each other. They practice good hygiene and the childminder's policy and procedures regarding hygiene and sickness help to prevent the spread of infections.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children spend their time in a very welcoming and secure environment. Risks to children are significantly minimised with supervision, use of stair gates, safe storage of medicines and cleaning materials and documented fire safety and evacuation procedures. However there is not yet a fully efficient system to check that smoke detectors are always working and a risk assessment has not been undertaken for the use of the trampoline.

Children learn about keeping themselves safe in the sun through talking with the childminder and being vigilant about using sun creams and hats. They become valuable partners in actively keeping themselves safe on outings because the childminder encourages them to take responsibility. They look and listen before crossing roads and use pelican crossings. They talk about stranger danger and who to go to if they are lost or worried. When travelling in the car the childminder makes sure all the children are securely seated and restrained which helps to keep them safe in the event of an accident. The childminder carries emergency contact details and a mobile phone with a pre-programmed emergency number. This ensures children can be assisted whenever necessary.

The childminder has a clear understanding of Child Protection Procedures and reference guides which helps to ensure that children's needs are met.

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

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy attending and taking part in activities. They can independently access many of the wide range of resources available. They use their imagination and have fun when they play with a toy bus equipped with people and fittings which is new to them. They enjoy a game of bingo with the childminder which helps them to practise number skills, then look

through photographs and name the children they recognise. They put together a floor puzzle and identify letters and sounds supported by the childminder. There are lots of smiles and laughter during these activities.

Other interesting activities offered include art, craft, cooking, preparing food, songs, role play and dressing up which help children to develop their imagination in an exciting and purposeful way.

Children are strongly motivated to explore and try new skills because the childminder encourages them in a lively way and rewards them with praise. Younger children develop well because the childminder is consistently responsive and is starting to use of the Birth to three matters framework as a reference.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident and happy because the childminder discusses their individual needs carefully with parents so that she can settle them in and avoid disrupting familiar routines and comforts. They behave very well. They are encouraged to take turns and share toys and are given clear guidance at the optimum level for their age. They co-operate with expectations by helping to tidy away toys for which they are warmly praised. Children play together and alongside each other very well, enjoy each other's company and are at ease with the childminder. They show affection sometimes going to her for a cuddle for comfort.

Children explore the diversity of the world around them because the childminder talks to them about different cultures, shares books such as "Acorn People", "Happy Christmas Gemma" and "Don't Call Me Special", which is a first look at disability. She explores a variety of foods from different cultures such as noodles, rice and discusses why people eat different sorts of foods.

Children enjoy consistency of care and routines because there is a trusting partnership between the childminder and parents with an easy flow of information both ways. Confidentiality is highly respected. Parent permissions are not yet in place to cover children using the trampoline and the system to ensure parents are fully informed about the service is not yet fully developed.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Records are kept in accordance with the requirements but changes are not always notified at the earliest opportunity. There is a well written and clear complaints procedure. She uses her time well and achieves a balance of playing with the children and allowing them to play independently and use their imagination freely. The childminder is motivated to develop her service and build on the skills and knowledge which she has attained. She has a current first aid certificate and is currently working towards a quality assurance award.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop documentation and provide resources and activities that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

The first has been achieved by gaining parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment, developing a new system for recording accidents and providing parents with a complaints procedure which helps to keep children safe. To address the second issue resources have been obtained to promote diversity and the childminder talks to the children about issues as they arise. This helps children to develop positive attitudes to difference.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration/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):

- ensure changes are notified at the earliest opportunity
- obtain parent permission and develop a risk assessment for children who use the trampoline
- develop a system to ensure smoke detectors are working
- develop a system to ensure that parents are fully informed about all aspects of the provision

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)