



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	112718
<b>Inspection date</b>	01 December 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Lisa Jane Cupples
<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 has been registered since 1996. She lives with her husband and four children aged over eight years and one child aged under three years. They live in a house in a residential area of Waterloooville, close to local schools, shops and parks. The ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of five children at any one time. She is currently minding eight children aged between two years and 10 years on a part-time basis. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children and she attends the local parent and toddler group on a regular basis. The family have a dog and two cats.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties, disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. She is a qualified assessor and also holds a B-Tech in Childhood Studies.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of personal hygiene and are developing good self care skills through daily routines and discussion. For example, the children are encouraged to wash their hands before snacks and meals and after using the toilet facilities or stroking the family dog. They talk about 'washing away the germs' so their hands are nice and clean. Children are protected and enjoy a healthy environment because the childminder implements stringent hygiene procedures to help prevent the possible spread of infection. When the childminder changes the children's nappies the changing mat is cleaned after each use using anti-bacterial spray and all kitchen surfaces and table tops are cleaned before and after use. Children have ample opportunities to develop their large muscle skills during activities in the garden. They enjoy a wide range of physical activities such as climbing on the climbing frame and visiting local parent and toddler groups. They go outside daily to reap the benefits of fresh air, for walks or to local parks.

The childminder has an extremely clear understanding of the procedures to record all accidents that occur on the premises and she ensures parents sign to acknowledge that they have been informed, helping to keep children healthy. Parents give written consent for the childminder to seek emergency medical treatment and to administer medication, although they are not required to sign the records to acknowledge the administration of medication at this time. Children will receive appropriate treatment if an accident occurs because the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and a fully stocked first aid kit is in place.

Children benefit from a nutritious diet because the childminder has a clear understanding of healthy eating. She provides a wide range of fruit for snacks and discusses the needs of each child with the parents in detail and records the information on their registration forms. Children are beginning to understand about healthy eating through daily discussions and talk openly about which food is good for them 'helping them to grow big and strong'. Children often choose what fruit they would like for their snack and have a good selection. The children have their snacks together at a child-sized table in the dining room and enjoy talking about what they have been doing and what they are having to eat, making this a real social event, helping to develop the children's social skills effectively. The childminder gently reminds the children to say please and thank you, encouraging them to use their manners and be polite throughout the day.

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

The provision is good.

Children are protected effectively because the childminder is vigilant and removes all potential risks to the children, for example, a stair gate is in place to ensure the children stay in the lounge and dining room where they can be fully supervised and supported well at all times. The children learn to keep themselves safe through daily discussions and routines. The children learn to pick the toys up after themselves, ensuring that others won't trip over them. Children are safe because clear arrival and collection procedures are in place. Parents are required to

come into the house to drop off and pick their children up. If any other person is going to collect the children the childminder asks that the parents introduce them first if possible, so she knows who they are.

The childminder organises the space available well to enable the children to access the toys and resources independently, increasing their freedom of choice. Children are able to move freely from the lounge to the play room, developing their self-confidence. They have ample space to participate in an extensive range of activities, independently or in small groups with the childminder. The resources and toys are in good condition and are brightly coloured to attract the children's interest. The resources are stored in low-level boxes and shelves around the dining room and in the conservatory, enabling the children to choose their own activities and see the full range of options, developing their decision making skills effectively.

The childminder has a very clear understanding of child protection procedures and discusses her responsibilities with the parents before the children attend. She would recognise the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and would contact the relevant agencies to safeguard the children in her care.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the developmental needs of children and this enables her to differentiate the activities effectively, ensuring all the children can participate fully. For example, holding the tower of bricks steady while the youngest children add bricks and talking to the older children about making the bottom wider to help stop it from falling over. The activities are kept short and changed frequently reflecting the short concentration span of the children attending, ensuring they are busy and stimulated all day.

The childminder interacts extremely well with the children in her care. She talks to them continually, making good eye contact and sits on the floor playing with the children at their level, assisting and supporting them as necessary. The childminder gives the children the chance to think about what they are trying to achieve, for example, asking them why they think the tower of bricks keeps falling over, helping them to begin problem solving by asking open-ended questions. Children are confident and have good self-esteem, the childminder has an exceptional understanding of children's developmental needs and she participates fully during activities, encouraging children to join in. Children have many opportunities to develop an extensive range of skills and progress well in all areas in a stimulating, exciting and interesting environment.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a clear understanding of equal opportunities and ensures all children have equal access to the resources and activities available. Children benefit from the childminder's experience as they learn to share and take turns easily. The childminder gently reminds them why it is important to take turns and the children can see the fairness, explaining it is so they can all get to play. The childminder gently reminds the children to share and praises them

continually to reinforce the positive behaviour. Children learn to respect each other and are beginning to show consideration for each other, for example, the children ask others if they want to join in, passing the drink beakers to each other and cuddling each other on the sofa during story-time.

Children's individual needs are met extremely well because the childminder takes the time to get to know each child and their families well, this develops a real sense of belonging and the children feel valued when the childminder talks about their siblings and other family members. The childminder finds out about the children's needs and preferences through detailed discussion with the parents and she records the details on their registration forms. The childminder has some experience of working with children who have special needs. She discusses the children's individual needs with the parents and is happy to liaise with other agencies as required. The childminder has a positive attitude towards caring for all children and always works closely with the parents to meet their needs in the best possible way. The childminder shares information with the parents verbally at collection time, they talk about how the children have been, what they have been doing and any other things that have happened, helping to keep them informed at all times.

Children are developing a strong sense of right and wrong because the childminder has clear rules and boundaries in place. Children's behaviour is extremely good because they know exactly what is expected of them. The childminder always gives clear explanations aimed at their individual level of understanding, for example, gently reminding the children to share and take turns and praising them when they do. The childminder is a positive role model and deals with unwanted behaviour calmly and with a relaxed manner, for example, by distracting the younger children with other toys and activities, diverting any potential tantrums before they start.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are fully occupied and engaged with ample play opportunities during their time at the setting, as the childminder organises the daily routines exceptionally well. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children's health, safety and well-being is promoted effectively because most of the required documentation is detailed, up-to-date and shared with parents, although the daily attendance register currently records the children's contracted hours and not their actual times of attendance. Children benefit from an extremely well-organised, safe, secure and stimulating environment, where they are protected by solid procedures which are implemented effectively by the childminder. Children enjoy their time with the childminder because resources and activities are planned well, provide sufficient challenge and the days are full and run smoothly. The childminder has a clear understanding of the requirements of her registration and the inspection process, keeping children safe.

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

At the last inspection the provider was asked to ensure that sufficient play resources are available in the conservatory to meet the needs of children. She was also asked to update the written procedures outlining procedures for students, and the information recorded in the daily attendance register. The play resources in the conservatory have been re-organised and are

clearly labelled on shelves for the children to access. The childminder also ensures a good selection of toys and resources are in the dining room, enabling children to see what is on offer. The daily attendance register now includes the parent's signatures and the children's full names are recorded. The childminder has clear procedures in place when students are attending for a placement, ensuring the children are protected at all times.

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

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action to meet the National Standards.

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 the daily attendance register records the children's actual times of attendance
- ensure parents sign to acknowledge the administration of medication

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)