



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	112802
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 December 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Alison Large
<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 1990. She lives with her husband and adult child in the Titchfield area of Hampshire. All areas of the ground floor are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five all day and two children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family have some guinea pigs.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children thrive because the childminder has effective procedures and practices which meet the children's physical, nutritional and health needs. Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet as the childminder introduces a variety of healthy snacks. Children are offered fruit daily and are able to talk about why fruit is good for you and have made a poster displaying their favourite healthy foods. Children can access drinking water throughout the day. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents, and children's choices to provide snacks and meals that appeal to the children and meet their dietary needs.

Children are encouraged to be independent and follow good hygiene routines. The childminder's support and guidance helps children gain a good understanding of their own personal care. Children are encouraged to wash their hands thoroughly after using the toilet or before eating. Accident and medication records are kept and the childminder ensures her first aid training is kept up to date. However, the childminder has not ensured she has obtained consent to seek emergency medical advice and treatment for each child, which puts their well-being at risk.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Children are taken on regular outings, walks and visits to the beach and country parks where the children can use physical play equipment. Children are able to access the garden where they are able to use a variety of equipment including wheeled toys, slide, swing and other activities.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of safety issues. Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment where they can move around freely. Children are kept safe during outings and remain under the childminder's supervision at all times. The childminder has planned and discussed an emergency evacuation procedure with the children and smoke detectors are in place.

Children benefit from the vibrant play environment. They are able to independently select activities from a good range of high quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards and are kept well maintained. The developmental needs of the children are met by the range of equipment that is made available to them. The childminder rotates the toys regularly to provide the children with a good balance of learning opportunities.

The childminder has all the required documents and procedures in place to ensure the children's welfare is safeguarded. She has a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, and recognises her role and responsibilities in keeping children safe from harm.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder. They enter confidently, settle well and make themselves at home in the childminder's house. The children are happy in the childminder's company and engage in conversation with her. The children build close and caring relationships with the childminder which increases their sense of trust and helps them develop a strong sense of self.

The childminder has a good understanding of child development, which helps provide an exciting and stimulating play environment for young children. Children relish their time at the childminder's, daily routines are organised well to incorporate children's learning and children are actively involved in their play throughout the day. Children are interested in a range of developmentally appropriate activities, they become independent as they chose between a variety of books, toys and activities which appeal to them. Older children are able to enjoy different activities to the younger children, which are more suited to their developmental stages, which ensures their individual needs are met.

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

The provision is good.

The children flourish in the childminder's care. All children are welcomed and play a full part in their day, because the childminder respects each child's individuality. Children are able to access some resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase their awareness of diversity, which helps them develop an understanding of others.

A good partnership with parents contributes to the children's well-being whilst at the childminder's. Effective communication takes place between the childminder and parents, which ensures the individual needs of each child are met. However, the childminder has not put a complaints record in place, which affects the sharing of information with parents. Behaviour is good and children show high levels of independence, confidence and self-esteem as the childminder praises and values their achievements. The childminder manages behaviour calmly and effectively ensuring clear boundaries are in place.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children are fully occupied and engaged with the many play opportunities during their time at the setting, as the childminder organises the daily activities well. Most legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place, stored confidentially and regularly reviewed. However, documentation relating to complaints and parental consents are yet to be put in place. Children benefit from the well organised, safe and stimulating environment, where they are protected by procedures which are implemented effectively by the childminder.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to devise and practise an emergency escape plan. The childminder has met this recommendation fully, which has ensured the children are aware of what to do in an emergency.

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order 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 signed consent from parents to seek emergency medical advice and treatment is obtained for each child
- keep a record of complaints and any action taken

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)