



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY332130
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 October 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 2006. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 6 and 3 in the Sholing area of Southampton. All areas of the property 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five all day and. The childminder drives to schools to take and collect children. The family have pet fish.

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. Children can access drinking water throughout the day. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents, who provide their children's meals, and children's choices to provide snacks 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, although they currently share a hand drying towel, which may cause cross infection. Accident and medication records are kept and the childminder ensures her first aid training is kept up to date.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Children are taken on regular outings to parks, walks and visits to carer and toddler groups 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, water play 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 practised 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 good knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, has written her own child protection policy 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, she is able to speak a variety of languages with the children and they become confident in understanding and speaking more than one language 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 and has started making use of the Birth to three matters framework, 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 enjoy looking at photographs of themselves participating in activities and talk about activities and outings. 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 have the opportunities to understand the needs of others and the world around them as they talk about festivals and other cultures during activities, which helps them understand and value the similarities and differences.

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 and a daily diary is kept for each child, which ensures the individual needs of each child are met. 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. Children benefit from the well organised, safe and stimulating environment, where they are protected by procedures which are implemented effectively by the childminder. The childminder shows a commitment to ongoing training and is interested in becoming a member of an accredited childminding network. All

legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place, stored confidentially and regularly reviewed.

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

Not applicable

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

Since registration 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):

- provide individual hand drying towels for each child to avoid cross infection
- continue to develop the use of Birth to three matters for children under three

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)