



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	111113
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 February 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Heidi Wilton
<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 has been registered since 1996. She lives with her husband and two grown-up children. They live in a house in a residential area in Locks Heath, on the edge of east Southampton. The house is close to local pre-schools, schools, parks and shops.

During the week, the childminder currently cares for two children after school on a part-time basis. The minded children have access to the downstairs of the house. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play. The family have one pet dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and Fareham Childminding Association. She collects children from local schools.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a clean and safe environment. The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of good hygiene and acts as a good role model as she cleans tables, surfaces and equipment with antibacterial cleaner. Children are encouraged to wash their hands after going to the toilet and before having meals. They are gently reminded by the childminder and with the use of visual aids, such as a sign saying 'wash your hands'. The childminder further protects the children from cross contamination because she stores and prepares food appropriately.

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of how to record accidents and administer medicine, ensuring all children are safe and healthy. However, the childminder has not obtained parental permission for emergency medical treatment, delaying the care the children receive in an emergency. From the outset, the childminder informs parents of her 'sick child policy' to ensure they are well informed and to protect all children in her care.

Parents supply some foods for the children which the childminder stores appropriately. When children arrive she provides the children with a healthy snack, such as a sandwich and fruit. She communicates with parents well about food requirements and demonstrates a good understanding regarding dietary requirements and allergies.

Children enjoy walks to the local parks and have fun moving their bodies to the actions on the computer, dancing and jumping on the dance mat. During school holidays she takes all children to inside 'play zones' and local attractions, where they have fun climbing the ropes and jumping into the 'ball pools'.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children move freely around the downstairs of the premises and all doors are secured when not in use. The childminder has smoke detectors and a fire blanket to ensure children remain safe. The childminder practises fire drills on a regular basis and checks the environment daily for potential hazards.

The childminder does not drive but does transport children in vehicles when going on short outings. She has not obtained clear written parental permission to take children in other vehicles and does not have written permission to take children on outings. This means parents are not fully informed about the location of their child.

Equipment and toys are well maintained and the childminder provides activities and resources appropriate to the stages of development of the children she currently minds.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection procedures. She is aware of how to record signs and symptoms and where to make referrals.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have opportunities to enjoy a range of different activities and resources. These include puzzles, small world play toys, building blocks, drawing utensils and role play toys and clothes. The childminder currently minds children after school and considers their individual needs. For example, some children come in from school exhausted and she allows them to watch television. She communicates with the children about the programmes and limits their time watching the television. Children attending the childminder's after school, enjoy interacting with computer games, moving their feet on the dance mat and wiggling their bodies to the actions on the screen. The childminder helps children with their homework and spellings, offering praise and guidance.

Through discussion, the childminder indicates activities available to all the children. They enjoy dressing up in a range of outfits and often arrive at the childminder's house in outfits from their own home. Children have fun playing with the toy kitchen, making cups of tea and cooking pizza.

During school holidays, the childminder takes children to local indoor 'play areas', parks and local attractions. Children have limited opportunities for art and messy play at the childminder's house. However, when minding for younger children during the day, she takes them to local toddler groups where they join in with creative and messy activities.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for and treated as individuals. The childminder communicates well with parents about their child's home life and is sensitive to the child's needs whilst they are in her care. Children have equal access to all toys and equipment. She discusses with the children differences in society, such as why she wears glasses and why some people use walking aids. The children are exposed to books depicting positive gender roles and different cultures to foster their awareness of diversity.

The childminder is experienced in caring for children with additional needs. She demonstrates a good understanding and works alongside outside agencies, following action plans to ensure consistency of care for the children. She is happy to care for children with additional needs but assesses her premises and the children presently in her care first, to ensure she can meet all of their needs.

The childminder has a clear behaviour policy which she shares with parents at the outset. She uses positive language and behaviour methods and encourages children, equipping them with the tools to manage their own behaviour. She encourages and gently reminds all children to follow simple house rules.

Children benefit from good communication between their parents and carers and the childminder. The childminder verbally communicates with parents and carers at the end of each day, detailing achievements, issues and any concerns. She respects parents' and carers' wishes, such as helping

their child with their homework. The childminder informs parents and carers from the outset of routes to follow should they have a concern and has a complaints log in place should a concern arise.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She ensures parents and carers are informed about her conditions of registration from the outset. The childminder remains within her ratio at all times ensuring she meets the needs of all the children. The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of vetting procedures to be followed for adults living within her home.

The childminder has an up-to-date first aid qualification to ensure children are kept healthy and safe in the event of an accident or emergency. She records children's attendance at the time of arrival and departure. However, children's names are not recorded separately on the register and on other documentation.

The childminder keeps all documentation confidential and shares policies with parents and carers from the outset. However, the childminder shows limited understanding of current legislation and the National Standards for childminding, compromising the welfare of the children in her care.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to address five recommendations for care. She was asked to obtain a first aid qualification. The childminder now has an up-to-date first aid qualification to ensure children are kept safe and healthy.

She was asked to develop the range of toys and books, particularly for the under fives. The childminder has some resources and books suitable for children under five. However, the childminder intends to only mind children after school and is focusing on developing her resources for children of school age, to ensure she is providing suitable resources for their stage of development.

The childminder was asked to update her training with behaviour management and her knowledge of recording incidents. She demonstrated a clear understanding of how to record incidents and has updated her knowledge of behaviour management through reading relevant literature. This ensures children's behaviour is managed appropriately.

The childminder was asked to obtain parental written agreement to transport children in other people's cars and permission to take photographs. She has not gained clear parental written agreement to transport children in other people's cars and to take photographs of the children. This compromises the safety and welfare of the children.

She was asked to keep a daily register and consent records for administering medicines, detailing all relevant details. The childminder does keep a daily register, although children's names are

not recorded separately, compromising their safety in an emergency. The childminder does not currently administer medication but demonstrates a sound understanding of how to complete these records, ensuring children are kept healthy and safe.

### **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 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):

- obtain parental permission to obtain emergency medical advice or treatment
- gain parental permission to take children in vehicles and on outings and to take photographs of the children
- update knowledge of current legislation and national standards for childminding
- ensure siblings names are recorded separately on all documentation.

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)