



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	150918
<b>Inspection date</b>	29 January 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Coral Hales
<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 2001. She lives with her husband, her adult son and daughter aged 13 in a bungalow in Wallington near Fareham in Hampshire. The whole of the premises are used for childminding except for bedroom one and two.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children over five after school. She also cares for children over eight years. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and comfortable family home and benefit from accessing play areas that are kept clean and tidy. Children have a suitable awareness of the benefit of good hygiene practices and they take part in daily hand washing and toileting routines. They are protected from illness because the childminder follows effective procedures which are shared with parents and sick/infectious children do not attend. Children receive appropriate care in the event of an accident as the childminder keeps her first aid qualification up-to-date. Parents are informed of any injuries that occur whilst children are in her care. She has not, however, obtained clear written consent from parents to seek any necessary emergency advice/treatment.

Children are provided with snacks and drinks when they return home from school and the childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of healthy eating. Snacks are generally nutritious and fruit is always available. Children have an awareness of the benefits of eating a good variety of foods including fresh produce, for example, fruit and vegetables.

Children have good opportunities to develop a healthy lifestyle through regular exercise and fresh air. For example, they walk home from school together and visit places of interest on the way. They visit the local meadow to play games such as football and to generally let off steam.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in suitable premises where risks are generally identified and minimised. The play environment is safe and secure. This is maintained effectively by the childminder because she makes regular checks to ensure all equipment is suitable and that most necessary safety precautions are in place. For example, a fire blanket is sited in the kitchen and smoke alarms are in place. The children are aware of the procedures to follow in the event of a fire, however practises are not held regularly to ensure children remember what to do in an emergency. They learn about appropriate road safety practices as they walk home from school and take some responsibility for themselves within agreed boundaries set by the childminder. Children can safely access a reasonable range of toys and equipment. This allows them to initiate and develop their own play ideas. Resources are clean and well-maintained and suitable for the children to use.

Children are protected because the childminder is aware of her responsibilities for the welfare of the children in her care and she has a developing knowledge of child protection issues. She is aware of the procedures to follow if she has concerns and useful documentation is in place. However, she is not fully secure in her knowledge of the guidance issued by the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy in the childminder's home and all relate well to each other. The younger and older children play together well and the environment is relaxed and friendly. The after school children are provided with appropriate resources and activities at the end of the school day. Children's personal and social skills are developing well. They are given opportunities to play independently for example, colouring, and to play as a group when playing board games. This develops children's confidence and promotes their mathematical and language skills as they play games such as cribbage with the childminder. Visits out to the meadow and local amenities broaden and extend children's range of experiences.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and their needs are met well. They have warm and caring relationships with the childminder who is aware of and sensitive to their differing needs, and they are happy and settled in her care. Children learn about the local community and the people in it and are aware of the wider world. Regular discussions with each other and the childminder helps them to develop further knowledge. The childminder has a satisfactory practical awareness of how to include and appropriately care for children with learning difficulties or disabilities. Children behave generally well because the childminder encourages good manners and respect for each other. She works closely with parents using age appropriate methods to deal with any unwanted behaviour shown by the children.

The partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. Children are cared for in accordance with their parents' wishes. The childminder works successfully with the parents to meet children's needs and so promote their well-being and development. Parents are aware of how to make a complaint if they have any concerns. However, the childminder has not fully developed her complaints procedure in line with new requirements. Most required documentation is completed by parents including written contracts. This ensures all are aware of their roles and responsibilities. Parents comment positively about the care that their child receives.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The premises are organised to meet the needs of the children and the childminder demonstrates she has an organised approach to her childminding role. Children have opportunities for free play, to participate in activities and outings planned by the childminder or just to relax and watch television at the end of the school day. They interact really well with the childminder who is interested in what they say and joins in with their play. This allows children's learning to be developed and extended. Their health, safety and welfare is supported well. The childminder has a sound knowledge of child care and has developed a range of policies and procedures to support her practice. Records are appropriately maintained and stored. The childminder has established systems for sharing information with parents on a daily basis. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to address three safety issues; to prevent children from locking themselves in the bathroom; to ensure the first aid box was adequately stocked; to ensure parents give prior written permission for the administration of medication. The childminder has made the bathroom lock safe, the first aid box has been restocked and written permission from parents is obtained. These changes ensure that children are kept safe and that their care and welfare is well promoted.

### **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):

- ensure emergency treatment/advice consent is maintained
- ensure emergency evacuations are carried out regularly to ensure all children are aware of the procedures to follow
- ensure your complaints procedure is in line with new guidance issued in October 2005
- develop knowledge and understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance.

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)