

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	110725
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 September 2007
<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 1996. She lives with her husband and two older school aged children in the Whiteley area of Hampshire. 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five all day and six child over five before and after school.

The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The family have two cats, rabbits and fish.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is a member of an approved childminding network and is able to provide funding for nursery education for three and four year olds.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children thrive because the childminder has highly 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 and meals. Children are offered fruit and vegetables daily and can access drinking water and a range of squashes throughout the day. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and the children's choices to provide meals and snacks that appeal to the children and meet their dietary needs.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good personal hygiene and personal care. Their clear understanding of why they must wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating reduces the risk of cross contamination. The childminder's support and guidance helps children gain a good understanding of hygiene and they become increasingly independent in their personal care. However the childminder does not have consent to seek emergency medical advice and treatment, as required.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Each day there are indoor and outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies, for example as they attend carer and toddler groups and ride on wheeled toys. Garden games and regular trips to the local parks and other experiences, improves children's physical skills.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of safety issues. Children are cared for in a spacious home where risks are identified and minimised. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder is vigilant, gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe, and to maintaining children's safety inside and outside the home.

Children benefit enormously from the exceptional, vibrant, play environment. Children independently select activities from an abundant range of high quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. Excellent procedures are in place to ensure equipment is well maintained. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises the children's choice of toys to make sure they are appropriate to the age and stage of the children's development.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place and gives top priority to ensuring the children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has an in depth knowledge of child protection issues, recognises her role and responsibilities, knows how to implement local child protection procedures and has written her own policy which is shared with parents.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder. They enter confidently, settle well and make themselves at home in the childminder's house and thrive in the exciting range of activities

and experiences offered to them. 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.

Children are interested in an excellent range of developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities. Children become independent as they choose between a variety of toys, books and activities which appeal to all. Older children are able to enjoy different activities from the younger children, which are more suited to their developmental stages, which ensures their individual needs are met.

Children interact well with the childminder, they attend toddler groups go on other trips and participate enthusiastically, which contributes to their developing communication skills. For example, the childminder arranged a transport day for the children which included them travelling on a boat, train and bus, which they all enjoyed. The childminder has an excellent knowledge and understanding of child development and makes use of the Birth to three framework and the Foundation Stage Curriculum. This provides an exciting and stimulating play environment, in which young children initiate some of their own play, helping them develop high levels of independence and competence in the early stages of their learning.

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

The provision is outstanding.

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 play well together learning to share and take turns and show concern for each other. Children gain a well developed respect for themselves and others as they learn about the wider world.

An excellent partnership with parents contributes significantly to the children's well-being whilst at the childminder's. Highly effective communication takes place between the childminder and parents and they work together to meet the children's individual needs. Behaviour is exceptional and children show high levels of independence, confidence and self-esteem as the childminder praises and values their achievements. They make themselves at home, confidently deciding what to do.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. The children feel at home and at ease in the well organised environment this means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The children's care is enhanced by the efficient quality of organisation of the childminder. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children.

Policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare and care of the children. They are shared with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. Documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place, stored confidentially and is regularly reviewed.

The childminder shows a commitment to ongoing training and is a member of an accredited childminding network, to further improve the setting. She actively evaluates the provision to identify areas in which further development could be made.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Since the last inspection the childminder has increased her resources to ensure she has a good range that promotes positive images and diversity. This has ensured the children are able to make choices from a wide variety of resources .

### **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):

- obtain consent from parents to seek emergency medical advice and treatment for each child.

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)