

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 112894  
**Inspection date** 25 July 2007  
**Inspector** Anne Mitchell

**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** 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 has been registered since 1991. She lives with her husband and two teenage children in a house in Hordle, Lymington. She may occasionally work with an assistant in agreement with parents. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding with occasional use of the upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have two dogs, fish and birds.

There are currently six children under eight on roll. The childminder also provides care for children over eight years of age. The childminder is a member of the local childminding network. She is also a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are independent in their personal care. They wash their hands after using the toilet and before snack and know why they do this. Younger children use a step stool to reach the washbasin, and this further promotes their independence. The childminder provides a warm air

dryer and paper towels for drying their hands to limit the spread of infection. However, children tend to use the shared towel, and sometimes forget to flush the toilet.

Good nappy changing routines are followed as the childminder uses disposable gloves, and ensures the mat is thoroughly cleaned before and after use. The childminder keeps the younger fully engaged throughout the nappy change, talking to them and praising them. There are good procedures in place to ensure toys and equipment are clean as the childminder makes regular checks, using the dishwasher to sterilise plastic toys.

The emotional health and wellbeing of younger children is promoted. The childminder offers cuddles and reassurance. Children of all ages have developed close and warm relationships with each other, and the older children are quick to help and guide the younger, less able children. Older children helps the babies and toddlers explore the treasure box and play 'peep bo' with them.

Children have very good opportunities for physical play and fresh air on a regular basis. They love to play in the well resourced garden, with room to play running games or ball games in safety. Children enjoy regular outings to local attractions, the beach or forest.

Accident and medication recording are in place so parents are aware of minor injuries. The childminder has an up to date first aid certificate and a well stocked first aid kit so children can be treated promptly in the event of an accident.

Children's dietary health is well promoted. Parents and the childminder share responsibility for the provision of food. Children's lunch boxes are stored in the fridge to ensure freshness. The childminder provides a healthy mid-morning snack. Children enjoy bananas, apples and raisins, for example. They have access to drinking water throughout the day to ensure their fluid levels are maintained.

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

The provision is good.

Children's safety is well promoted as they are cared for in secure premises. Their arrival time is clearly recorded and their parents sign them out at the end of the day. Safety equipment is fitted in rooms used by children so they can play safely. The childminder cares for children of a variety of ages, and to ensure they can play independently and without risk, there is a webcam in the lounge that can be viewed in the kitchen.

A range of written policies and procedures are in place that promote children's safety, such as a health and safety policy and evacuation plan. The childminder checks all play areas before children arrive and the garden before they enjoy outdoor play. Children learn about keeping themselves safe as the childminder explains that the smaller equipment must be kept away from the younger children as they might put it in their mouths. They talk about road safety during outings. The emergency evacuation procedure is practised on a regular basis so children can leave the building quickly and safely in the event of an emergency.

Toys and equipment are checked daily to ensure they remain safe for use. Children can access toys independently and in safety as they are stored in low level drawer units. Supervision inside and out is good and the childminder is skilled at monitoring all children.

Children are effectively protected from harm and neglect. The childminder has completed an advanced child protection training course and has a good knowledge and understanding of

signs and symptoms and the procedures to follow. Her child protection policy is shared with parents from the outset.

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

The provision is good.

Children of all ages settle quickly and enjoy their time at the setting. The childminder provides a broad and varied range of age appropriate activities and resources throughout the day. Children enjoy a good balance of quiet play, active outdoor pursuits and outings. At the start of the day the children play a game of giant snakes and ladders, the older children helping and supporting the younger ones. The children then move into different rooms to choose puzzles, colouring and baby play depending on their preferences. Children cooperate well with each other, taking turns and helping out.

Children enjoy the well resourced outdoor area. They take turns to use the enclosed trampoline, or ride the various bikes and trikes available. Younger children become absorbed in sand play, spooning the sand from one container to another and making sand shapes with moulds. Indoors children settle quickly to various activities. The younger children soon become focussed on the play dough activity, making models and cutting shapes. Interaction is good throughout and the childminder engages children in conversation, taking a genuine interest in what they have to say. Older children explain how they made the play dough and how they make it a different colour.

Children are happy and demonstrate good levels of confidence and self esteem. They have made good relationships with the childminder and with each other. The older children have a positive impact on the younger children and vice versa. Older children enjoy helping the younger children, and the younger children watch the older children's play with interest and excitement.

Children benefit from the regular outings to local attractions, such as a farm, the forest and local beaches. They recall how they threw pebbles into the sea, and climbed on the wooden play equipment at a country park. The children explain with enthusiasm about the different equipment they go on at Moors Valley, and where they have their picnic.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the welcoming environment with their art work and photographs displayed. Toys and resources are available for them to choose from the start of the day. The range of different aged children react very much like a close knit family. They relate well to each other. Two new children are immediately 'at home' and very happy in the childminder's home. They quickly make relationships with the more established children, who show them what to play with, and where the toilet is, for example. Consequently, children demonstrate a good sense of belonging.

Children's behaviour is good. They are polite and follow clear and consistent house rules. House rules are positive and displayed for older children. The childminder has a positive approach to managing children's behaviour and is consistent in her approach. A written behaviour management policy is shared with parents from the outset, so they are aware of the strategies the childminder uses.

Children learn to recognise and respect difference as they have access to books and resources that provide positive images of cultural diversity. The childminder has developed a written equal opportunities policy to reflect her practice. The childminder knows the children well and consequently meets their needs effectively, talking with them about special family events and things that interest them.

The parents of younger children are provided with a written record of their daily routines, so they know what the children have eaten and how long they have slept, for example. Written agreements are maintained and the policies and procedures are shared with parents from the outset. The childminder ensures all parents are informed about their child's day through regular informal discussions.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by an experienced and qualified childminder. She demonstrates a clear commitment to on-going training to improve her ability to promote positive outcomes for children. She has attended many workshops and is continuously improving her knowledge and understanding of childcare through training.

Space is organised effectively to meet the needs of the various ages of children and allow sufficient space to play and sleep. There is a good balance of outdoor play opportunities, outings and time to play and relax in the house.

The childminder has developed a comprehensive range of policies and procedures that reflect her care. However, procedures to promote children's hand hygiene are not always effective. All required documentation is clear and up to date and stored confidentially. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure parents sign the medication record to acknowledge administration of medication and to provide a wider range of resources reflecting positive images of disability. Medication records are now signed by parents and there are suitable resources available to reflect diversity.

### **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):

- continue to promote children's understanding of hygiene practices at toilet time

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)