

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY250504
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 August 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 2003. She lives with her husband and their two children aged 14 and three in Lovedean, Waterlooville, Hampshire. The whole house is used for childminding, however children are generally cared for on the ground floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five during the day. She walks to local pre-schools to take and collect children. The childminder can provide overnight care for one child aged under eight years. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and is a qualified practitioner.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an extremely clean and welcoming minding home, where effective health and hygiene routines are followed. They begin to develop an understanding of good

health and hygiene practices as they take part in routine daily tasks. This sustains levels of hygiene and helps to prevent the spread of infection. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has an up-to-date first aid certificate in the event of any accident, and appropriate procedures are in place if children are unwell.

Children are well nourished as the childminder has a good understanding of healthy eating. They enjoy eating snacks and mealtimes are relaxed and children are developing their social skills. They have a good variety of snacks for example, fresh and dried fruit, and are offered regular drinks. The younger children are provided with drinks as they are not always able to ask to them. Children enjoy a good range of activities which contribute to their good health and have opportunities to rest and sleep according to their needs.

Children's health is well maintained and they effectively develop physical control as they take part in fun indoor and outdoor activities for example, they play musical games indoors and enjoy using the trampoline and the climbing frame in the garden. They go out for walks and visit the local animal and activity parks.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming home where risks are generally identified and minimised. The childminder is aware of children's developing abilities and ensures that most appropriate safety measures are in place to avoid dangerous situations. The premises are secure and children are unable to leave them unsupervised. This enables children to move freely and develop their play and ideas in a safe environment.

Children access a good range of safe and well maintained furniture, equipment and resources. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to ensure that they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. There is a range of equipment to support the needs of the younger children that is suitable and of high quality.

Children's safety is maintained in the event of a fire, as fire drills are carried out to ensure they are familiar with procedures. Suitable and safe procedures are in place to ensure young children are kept safe when using the car. Appropriate seats and belts are used as required and written permission is maintained. Children are protected as the childminder understands her role in child protection, however she is not fully secure in her knowledge of current child protection issues or of the guidance issued by the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well settled and at home in the setting. The atmosphere is relaxed and they have close and caring relationships with the childminder. They play happily with the good range of accessible resources as well as participating in activities which require more adult support. For example, the childminder helps the children to make alphabet cheese straws to spell their names. Children's social development is actively encouraged, as they attend toddler groups and socialise regularly with other minded children and this helps to broaden their range of experiences. The older children are provided with appropriate resources and activities at the end of the school day. Children enjoy listening to stories and join in familiar songs and rhymes. This contributes to children's developing communication skills. Their ideas are listened to and

valued and the childminder talks to them about what they are doing. Children listen to music and use instruments to accompany the songs.

Younger children play, sing and laugh with the childminder and enjoy her company and interaction with them is good. They play with interactive toys and happily use a good selection of bright and colourful equipment that interests them promotes their learning. The baby is happy and content and enjoys watching the other children. The childminder is aware of the Birth to three framework, however does not use it to plan activities for children under the age of three.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a strong sense of belonging as the childminder knows them well and values them as individuals. She therefore has an understanding of relevant issues to consider if asked to care for a child with special needs. Children are happy as they clearly feel secure and are well occupied and stimulated. They develop high self-esteem and patterns of good behaviour as the childminder praises them regularly. Children are beginning to negotiate with others and start to take responsibility for their own behaviour. This is enhanced by the childminder's consistent approach which helps children develop their understanding of what is right and wrong.

Children select from the resources and play materials provided making independent choices in their play. However, resources which reflect diversity and help children appreciate each others similarities and differences are still limited. They are developing a positive attitude to others and begin to learn about the local and wider world by visiting the local community and other areas of interest.

The childminder develops strong and supportive working relationships with parents. This enables clear discussions to take place on a regular basis. The childminder does not have a clear understanding of the new complaints guidance issued. Therefore parents are not fully aware of the procedures to follow if they have any concerns. Written agreements are in place and required consents are maintained.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and at ease in the childminder's home. The premises are effectively organised to meet children's needs and to ensure they feel welcome. They move freely between the available rooms and have access to the garden. Routines are well established to help children feel secure in their surroundings. Appropriate ratios are maintained that enable children to have a greater level of individual attention.

Records and procedures are in place for the effective and safe management of the provision. This promotes the children's welfare, care and learning. Parents have opportunities on a regular basis to share and exchange information with the childminder, and this contributes to continuity in the children's care. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children.

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

Since the last inspection the childminder has reviewed her paperwork to ensure all required documents are up-to-date and maintained as required. These are suitably stored and made available for inspection. She was also required to improve fire safety precautions by ensuring the fire blanket was accessible in the kitchen. The childminder has agreed to remove the fire blanket from the cupboard and site it in a suitable place to use in an emergency. These changes ensure the safety and well-being of the children.

### **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):

- develop knowledge of current child protection guidance and ensure that you are able to put the procedures into practice
- further develop resources and activities that help children to learn about and value diversity
- update knowledge and understanding of the new complaints procedure and make parents aware of the system to follow if they have any concerns.

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)