

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY294195
<b>Inspection date</b>	01 August 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 outstanding. 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 2004. She lives with her husband and two young children under eight years in a house in a residential area of Locksheath, Hampshire. The childminder currently has one full-time and six part-time children on roll. The house is within walking distance of local schools, preschool, shops, library and parks. All areas of the property are suitable for childminding although the second floor will not be used. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The childminder has no pets and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children gain an extremely good understanding of the importance of protecting themselves from germs and the excellent benefits of eating healthy foods. They very excitedly inform the visitor "we have made these signs for the bathroom to remind us to wash our hands and stop us getting germs". The childminder uses highly effective procedures to further protect children

from cross contamination and gives parents extremely detailed information about incubation periods should their child contract a communicable disease.

Children are wholly involved with every part of the meal time process, including accompanying the childminder to the shops. The childminder highly effectively encourages learning of different foods and their healthy benefits as she talks to the children about the foods and enables their independence as they choose foods they would like to try. Children become very excited as they show the visitor different posters they have made from cutting different foods out of magazines. The childminder interacts with the children at child-level and skilfully asks open questions to foster an extremely good understanding about the healthy benefits of the foods.

Children have access to an extensive range of activities to promote their physical development. Babies and young toddlers have excellent opportunities to develop their muscle coordination. They crawl on the grass feeling the different textures and engage with new experiences as they use their arms and legs to move themselves up the stairs. Children become very animated as they inform the visitor "we go to the local beach for walks and have lots of fun picking up the different stones". They immensely enjoy visits to feed the ducks and love walks to the local harbour, parks and other places of interest.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's safety is of utmost importance to the childminder. She demonstrates an extremely high awareness of all the children in her care and demonstrates excellent skill in forward thinking, such as using stair gates to keep younger children safe in designated areas and pegging up large sheets to create shady areas for the children to play under whilst engaged in outdoor activities. The childminder uses excellent age and stage related methods to equip children with high levels of understanding about how to look after themselves. For example, she highly effectively communicates with the children giving them very clear explanations about why some games and activities are not safe, such as jumping along inside the blanket on the wooden flooring.

Children have extensive opportunities to explore new experiences and take acceptable challenging risks within the home to develop their own understanding and skills. For example, young toddlers safely climb the stairs and children experiment with pushing their feet on the ground to move the scooter along. The childminder has an extremely clear understanding of the importance of practising fire drills with the children. She practises the drill on a very regular basis and communicates to the children about the importance of doing so to ensure they are extremely well informed in the event of a real fire or emergency. In addition, the childminder devises extremely fun 'fire quizzes' for the children to partake with, where they gain more knowledge and further develop their understanding.

The childminder has demonstrated excellent knowledge of child protection procedures and is extremely clear about where to make referrals. She knows how to competently record incidents and signs and symptoms to ensure any patterns of possible abuse or neglect are identified. The childminder has attended recent child protection training to ensure she is extremely well updated with the latest legislation and guidance.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children within the childminder's home are extremely relaxed and happy. They interact very well together, with children of different ages benefiting greatly from observing and helping each other. For example, older children help younger children to find their sun hat which they have dropped on the ground whilst playing outside. The childminder conducts thorough observations of the children with supporting photographic evidence. These observations are meticulously recorded and incorporated alongside the Birth to three matters framework ensuring children are appropriately supported through their developmental milestones.

Parents and their children are provided with settling in visits and parents are extremely welcomed to stay for as many sessions as they wish to ensure their child is very happy and relaxed within the environment. Children experience all aspects within the routine during their settling in times because the childminder believes this is highly effective in informing the child and parent about how the provision is run. For example, all children experience the walk to and from school to ensure they are fully aware of what it is going to be like when they attend the childminder's. The childminder facilitates a high level of understanding of each child's starting points, individual needs and home circumstances to ensure she is fully knowledgeable.

Children of different ages have a wide variety of age and stage appropriate toys and resources to play with. These range from light up and push button toys to small world play, arts and crafts and building blocks. All children have many opportunities to engage with creative play. Babies explore warm water and paints as they submerge their hands within the substances and older children create posters and collages with magazines, glue and scissors. Children thoroughly enjoy investigating different technology and laugh excitedly as they take photographs of each other with the digital camera.

The childminder is exemplary with her interactions with the children, taking time to listen carefully to what they say. This gives them the self assurance to talk freely about what they are doing and thinking. She has a close relationship with the children and demonstrates high levels of care and affection towards them.

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

The provision is outstanding.

All children's requirements are met because the childminder has an excellent understanding of their individual needs. She treats all children with equal respect and values them highly as individuals. The childminder devises excellent activities for the children to foster an awareness of diversity within society. The children become excited as they show the visitor an example of these activities where they have created collages by cutting people out of magazines. The childminder states she poses open questions to the children to encourage them to think about the different ages, gender and cultures of these people.

The childminder has created a positive environment where all the children learn at their own stages and levels of development. She feels it is extremely important to adapt the environment and work in conjunction with parents to ensure consistency is achieved for the children. Through discussion the childminder demonstrates her extremely clear dedication to the children. She is very keen to learn about children's additional needs and attend further training to enhance her expertise about the wide spectrum of learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Children understand what behaviour is expected as the childminder adopts a positive and consistent approach to managing their behaviour. Children devise their own house rules and have lots of fun decorating these to display on the walls. The rules equip them with the tools to manage their own behaviour and the childminder highly effectively offers gentle reminders of these.

Parents gain highly effective communications and detailed information from the outset. The childminder meets with parents showing them her detailed policies and procedures and in addition provides them with their own copies to allow them to reference them at home. Through discussion she states she gives very clear feedback to parents at the end of each day and is extremely happy to meet with parents at anytime to discuss their child. In addition, the childminder completes detailed written diary logs for the younger children which ensures parents are fully knowledgeable. Parents receive very regular newsletters showing lovely photographs of the things their children have been doing and detailed information to ensure they are very well informed. The childminder keeps an extremely wide selection of leaflets such as 'immunisations for your child', 'healthy eating' and 'road safety' which parents can access at anytime. Parents are able to independently access information from the parents notice board and are able to be included with their child's learning because the childminder asks for their involvement with activities, such as supplying large boxes to enable children to create their own village in the garden. The childminder keeps detailed observations of the children with supporting photographic evidence. Parents can access these records at anytime enabling them to highly effectively support and consolidate their child's learning at home.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children of different ages are able to move seamlessly between the activities that are on offer both inside and out which ensures they are fully occupied and thriving with their overall development. Stringent and comprehensive policies have been devised and highly effectively shared with parents to ensure they are extremely well informed about the provision. The childminder gains all required paperwork from parents and very meticulously files these confidentially and securely.

The childminder is extremely dedicated to her role as a childminder and highly effectively uses her forward thinking skills to ensure she meets the National Standards and requirements for her role. For example, she has gained a place on a paediatric first aid course before her current qualification has expired to ensure there is no gap between her current one expiring and the gaining of the new certificate. She has an excellent comprehension of ensuring all adults within the household are vetted to be around the children. In addition, she has devised and maintains a visitors log to ensure she is extremely aware of who is currently within the environment and who has been in the environment at the same time as the children. The childminder demonstrates exemplary practice and motivation to the children offering them thrilling and purposeful experiences.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to address one recommendation. She was asked to develop further the policies to clearly inform parents of the procedures for behaviour management, sick child, learning disabilities and/or difficulties and complaints. The childminder has now further developed these policies and shares them with parents from the outset. This

ensures children are safe and cared for appropriately within the provision and parents are extremely well informed.

### **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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)