

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	155464
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Gill Moore
<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 registered in 1994. She lives with her husband and three children, two of whom are adults, in the family home in the South Bersted area of Bognor Regis. The ground floor of the property is used for childminding and children use the enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children at any one time and is currently minding three children on a part time basis. The family have two dogs, a cat and a rabbit. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is a qualified early years practitioner and owns a pre-school in the local area.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder implements effective health and hygiene policies. For example, she wears disposable gloves when changing children's nappies and wipes down the changing mat with anti-bacterial spray. Children play in a clean and well maintained

environment where good standards of hygiene are maintained throughout. They have contact with family pets, and the childminder ensures pet food is inaccessible, although written consent from parents has not been obtained. Children's health is promoted because the childminder knows how to deal with accidents and has completed up to date relevant first aid training. She records accidents and the administration of medication, sharing this information with parents. However, children's health is not fully promoted in an emergency situation because written parental consent is not requested for emergency medical treatment to be given.

Children's dietary requirements are met because written information is provided relating to their individual needs. Parents provide children with a packed lunch and they begin to gain an understanding about healthy eating, through snacks offered by the childminder. Children are encouraged to try a range of fruits and they talk about how these are good for their bodies. They wash their hands and discuss why this is important recognising the need to get rid of germs. Children benefit from daily opportunities to engage in physical activities playing with different sized balls and riding bicycles in the childminder's garden. They learn to climb rope netting on larger apparatus in local parks and enjoy using slides and swings. Children receive stimulating physical activities, which the childminder plans using the curriculum guidance and Birth to three matters framework. Consequently, they begin to recognise the importance of daily exercise as part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

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

The provision is good.

Children stay safe because the childminder has a good understanding of safety issues and ensures risks and hazards are minimised within her home. Stair gates fitted across the entrance to the kitchen and stairs, prevent children from accessing these areas unsupervised. Dangerous substances are inaccessible to children and their safety is assured when playing in the garden. This area is safe and enclosed and one section has been partitioned off, to separate the rabbit from where children play. Consequently, children benefit because they are able to move freely and safely around the childminder's home inside and out. They have access to a suitable range of play provision and equipment, most of which can be accessed independently. Suitable procedures are in place to ensure the equipment and resources are clean, safe and well maintained, which contributes to ensuring children's safety.

Children begin to learn how to stay safe in an emergency situation. Smoke alarms are tested frequently, and children discuss and practise the procedure for emergency evacuation with the childminder. They use appropriate car seats and belts when travelling in the childminder's car, and written parental consent is obtained for children to go on outings. Children are safeguarded from harm and protected because the childminder fully understands her role, with regards to child protection issues. She has attended relevant training in this area and discusses her role with parents, ensuring they recognise her responsibilities towards protecting children in her care. She has a good understanding of child protection issues and knows how to implement local safeguarding procedures. This helps to promote children's safety and assure their well-being.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit because the childminder has a very good understanding about how young children learn. She has a good knowledge of the Foundation Stage Curriculum and Birth to

three matters framework, and uses this to help plan a range of activities and experiences suitable for the ages of children attending. Consequently, children enjoy the time they spend in the childminder's care, develop new skills and enhance their learning. They benefit from selecting their own resources, playing an active role in their learning. Children build with a range of construction materials, complete jigsaw puzzles and enjoy playing games with their peers. Interaction between the childminder and children is extremely positive, and they snuggle up to share stories together. Children learn new vocabulary and talk about the pictures in the book, because the childminder is extremely effective in the way she questions them and uses play to help them develop. For example, children count, sort and compare bears talking about the different size and colour. They recall their own experiences of visiting the shops with daddy, as they talk about the different things they buy when exploring picture books.

Children enjoy many opportunities to express their imagination and explore creativity using a range of media and materials. For example, they learn to mix different coloured paints, play with sand and water, and experiment with paint using different techniques. Children benefit from planned activities with the childminder, where clear learning intentions are identified, such as planting seeds and cookery. The childminder evaluates all activities and uses her knowledge of children's individual interests and abilities to plan future experiences. Children excitedly talk about places they visit with the childminder, including the Butterfly Farm, Hotham Park and Fishers Farm. They thoroughly enjoy the wide range of experiences they receive during the time spent in the childminder's care.

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

The provision is good.

Children establish strong and secure trusting relationships with the childminder and learn to play alongside their peers in a caring manner. They begin to develop a sense of responsibility, as they are encouraged to help pack away toys when they have finished playing and clean up after themselves. Children know the boundaries within the childminder's home and have a good understanding of what is expected of them, which impacts on the behaviour they display. Positive behaviour is promoted and the childminder uses appropriate strategies to deal with children's unwanted behaviour, according to their individual age and level of understanding. For example, she uses discussion, distraction and periods of 'time out' as she talks to children about their actions helping them to consider how their behaviour affects others.

All children are valued and treated as individuals and the childminder promotes a fully inclusive environment. They develop a strong sense of self assurance and begin to learn about diversity and the world around them. The childminder is effective in the way she uses everyday situations and play opportunities, to talk to children about differences and similarities between themselves and others. She uses resources, the local environment, special events and cultural festivals to help children learn about diversity. This enables children to increase their awareness of the local area and the wider world and to find out about a range of customs and traditions. Children benefit enormously because the childminder establishes extremely secure partnerships with their parents recognising the importance of working together. She shares detailed information about the service she provides and gives daily informal feedback about their day. Parents very much value the service she provides and speak extremely highly of the childminder. This is evident through the wonderful feedback provided in numerous references and statements included in her portfolio.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit because the childminder has a good knowledge of child development and recognises the importance of play. She is a qualified and experienced early years practitioner and has cared for many children in a range of settings, including those with learning difficulties and disabilities. The childminder provides a safe and stimulating homely environment, where children develop positive relationships and have fun in her care. She has a good understanding of the National Standards and meets the regulations and requirements of her registration. Documentation is well maintained and stored in individual files, which helps ensure confidentiality is maintained. This helps to promote children's health, safety and well-being.

The childminder is extremely well organised and shares information effectively with parents. She has developed a comprehensive portfolio, which includes certificates and qualifications, written policies and procedures and aims of the service she provides. Children benefit because the childminder plans her day according to the individual children she cares for. She has a very good knowledge of their individual needs, interests and abilities and uses this to help guide her planning. The childminder recognises her strengths and continually evaluates her own performance identifying areas for development. She attends regular training opportunities to enhance her skills and knowledge, which impacts on the experiences she provides for children. Consequently, 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 was asked to ensure that premises are secure and that children are unable to leave them unsupervised. She was also asked to ensure written consent is obtained to apply creams and lotions, and details of significant incidents are recorded to share with parents. The front door is now kept locked at all times, which contributes towards keeping children safe in the childminder's home. The childminder discusses with parents when lotions, such as sun creams are applied, although written consent is not obtained. She is aware of the need to record any significant incidents of behaviour should these occur.

## **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 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 written parental consent for children to receive emergency medical treatment and have contact with family pets

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)