

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	114962
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 October 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 satisfactory. 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 1998. She lives with her three children, one of whom is aged under eight years, in the family home in Yapton, close to Arundel. All areas of the home are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one, and is currently minding four children, one of whom is aged under eight years, on a part time basis. The family have a dog and a guinea pig.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn to take care of their bodies and begin to understand the importance of personal hygiene routines. For example, they know to wash their hands after they have been to the toilet and before they sit down to snacks and meals. Their health is assured because the childminder provides a clean and well-maintained environment where good standards of hygiene are maintained. Children have contact with the family pets, although written parental consent

is not obtained, and the childminder promotes their health by ensuring pet food, for example, is inaccessible. Children's health is promoted because the childminder has written information relating to their medical history and doctors' details. Suitable procedures are in place to administer medication and respond to accidents, sharing information effectively with parents. However, children's health is not assured in an emergency situation because written parental consent is not requested for the childminder to seek emergency medical treatment or advice.

Children's dietary requirements are fully respected and written details are obtained from parents regarding any special diets and allergies. The childminder is flexible around the meals and snacks she provides according to individual needs. Currently she supplies children with breakfast cereals and a light lunch, for example, scrambled egg or beans on toast. Children cared for after school usually have some crisps, followed by fruit and yoghurts and the childminder talks to them about healthy eating. They benefit from opportunities to engage in a range of physical activities using equipment, including the trampoline and slide in the childminder's garden. Children enjoy riding bicycles and scooters, jumping on the pogo stick and playing with balls.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit because the home is safe and secure allowing them to freely wander between the main play areas used. Younger children tend to play mainly downstairs whilst older children have access to the bedrooms on the first floor. All children enjoy opportunities to play outside in the garden. The environment is warm and welcoming and children have access to a good range of toys and play equipment. They develop their independence making choices about what they want to play with and this is promoted because much of the equipment can be accessed independently. Furniture, equipment and play resources are well maintained and effective procedures are in place to ensure these are checked regularly and are clean and safe, which helps promotes children's safety.

Children's safety is assured because the childminder has a good understanding of safety issues and provides a safe and secure environment where all risks and hazards are minimised. For example, all glass in the home is toughened and all windows are fitted with locks. Plug sockets have covers fitted, cleaning materials are inaccessible, and corner covers are fitted to the dining table, which helps keep children safe. Their safety is promoted when on outings and travelling in the childminder's car because she has suitable car seats and boosters available. She discusses travelling arrangements with parents, although written parental consent for children to travel in her car has not been requested, which may compromise their safety in the event of an accident. Children are safeguarded from harm because the childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and recognises her responsibilities towards protecting children in her care. She has completed training in this area and has a good awareness of different types of abuse and possible signs and symptoms that may indicate a child was at risk. The childminder is aware of the records to be kept and knows how to implement local safeguarding procedures. However, children are not fully protected because insufficient procedures are implemented to ensure all adults in the house over 16 years have undertaken relevant checks.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy the time they spend in the childminder's care and interaction between the childminder and children is extremely positive. They climb up onto her lap for a cuddle after

having lunch and enjoy talking about what they have been doing. Children's language skills are developing well and this is enhanced because the childminder talks to them effectively and questions them encouraging them to share their ideas and solve their own problems. Children are competent learners and know how to use a range of tools, such as paintbrushes, glue sticks and cutters when playing with dough. They excitedly show how to use the 'magic' gadget to make wiggly worms using good language to explain how it changes shape as it passes through the machine. Children count the number of worms they have made and compare the sizes when prompted by the childminder. They show very good imagination pretending that the worms are sausages and decide to make lots of things to go in the bakery shop. The childminder makes good use of this situation questioning children about the types of food they can buy at a baker's shop, drawing on their own experiences.

Children have opportunities to be creative and use a range of media and materials. For example, they make wonderful pictures and patterns using Hama beads and make models from recycled materials. Children paint, make collages and explore different textures using a range of media and enjoy making cakes. They play with trains and the farm and build roads and tracks with cars and trains. Children's imagination is promoted because they have access to a wide range of equipment, enabling them to explore their real and imagined experiences. For example, children pretend to go shopping, cook the dinner and play outside in the wooden house. The childminder recognises that children have varying needs and interests and encourages them to make their own decisions about what they want to play with, which helps ensure their interest is sustained. She provides a range of planned activities and experiences, such as creative activities, and recognises children need time to play quietly. For example, plenty of books, jigsaws and a wide range of board games are available.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play well together and learn to share and take turns using resources whilst in the childminder's care. They develop a strong sense of self assurance and confidence because positive behaviour is promoted and they are praised for completing tasks successfully. The childminder recognises the need to be consistent and use an approach suitable to children's individual age and level of understanding. She has realistic expectations of children's behaviour and they learn the boundaries within her home. Children become aware of their differences and similarities increasing their awareness of diversity. For example, the childminder uses play figures in the house to talk about age, gender and different skin colour. She promotes a fully inclusive environment where every child is valued and special and welcomes any child into her care, providing she is fully able to meet all children's individual needs.

Children benefit because friendly relationships are established between the childminder and their parents. She has a secure knowledge about children's home life and family circumstances and obtains written information about their individual needs and requirements. Informal discussion helps to ensure parents are well informed about their child's day and the childminder welcomes discussions at any time with parents securing the links between home and the setting. However, she lacks knowledge and understanding about the requirement to keep a complaints log and record and share information about complaints with parents. The childminder does not make contact details for Ofsted readily available, which impacts on parents' ability to make a complaint, should they wish to do so.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall, the childminder has a suitable understanding of the National Standards and is aware of most of the regulations and requirements she must meet. She has recently resumed childminding, after a long break, however, she has overlooked the requirement to ensure relevant adults complete appropriate vetting procedures, now minding has recommenced. The childminder has adopted a positive attitude towards updating her skills and knowledge by renewing childminding training and completing relevant first aid training. This helps to promote successful outcomes for children and as a result, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Children benefit because the childminder is well organised and plans each day well according to the needs of the individual children in her care. She keeps accurate records of children's attendance and most of the required documentation is in place.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure the new kitchen is safe or inaccessible to minded children. A new kitchen was being installed at the time of inspection and this has been made safe for children to access.

The childminder was also asked to obtain written parental permission for emergency treatment and to ensure that all members of the household over the age of sixteen years are suitably vetted. The childminder obtains written permission to give children who suffer from asthma their inhalers in an emergency situation, which helps to promote their health. She did not fully understand the requirement to obtain written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment or advice and this has been raised as a recommendation at this inspection. Following the last inspection, the childminder ensured relevant checks were carried out on all appropriate people living in the home. Having recommenced minding after a long break, she has overlooked the requirement to vet another member of her household, who has now reached the appropriate age. Consequently, this has also been raised at this inspection.

## **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):

- ensure all members of the household over the age of 16 years are suitably vetted
- improve knowledge and understanding around the requirement to record and share information about complaints with parents and ensure contact details for Ofsted are made available
- request written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment or advice and to transport children in the childminder's car

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)