

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	111669
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Jenny Scarlett
<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 was registered in 1993. She lives with her husband and three teenage children in Hook, Hampshire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding nine children on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder is the chairman of the local childminding group and runs the local childminder's drop ins. She also attends the local parent / toddler groups. The family has four cats, a hamster and tropical fish.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and / or disabilities.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a clean and well ordered home. They begin to understand simple health and hygiene practices as they have individual paper towels to dry their hands with in the bathroom. This protects them from cross infection. Their good health is protected with regard to the administration of medication. This is because the childminder takes steps to obtain parents permission, records each dose given and requests the parents to sign to acknowledge the medication administered. This protects children through continuity of care. Children's welfare is protected in the event of an accident as the childminder has a current first aid certificate and has permission to seek medical advice or treatment in an emergency.

Children's nutritional needs are well met because the childminder discusses the children's individual dietary needs and preferences with parents at the onset of care. At lunch, children are given choices and they make decisions what salad they would like with their pasta. Children enjoy healthy, home cooked evening meals which take place with the childminder's own family. The childminder grows her own salads and vegetables which ensures children are provided with fresh produce each day. Fresh drinking water is freely available and within children's reach which ensures that they have sufficient liquids for their needs. Children's physical development is enhanced as the childminder provides good opportunities for play in the garden and through regular visits to local toddler groups or walks to and from school and the parks.

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a safe environment as the childminder has taken good precautions to minimise hazards. The designated playroom is organised well to meet children's needs, enabling them to move around freely. The dining area is used for quieter activities and for the school aged children to complete homework tasks if they wish to. Toys and play materials are stored at a low-level so children can reach them easily and make independent choices. There is a good range of suitable resources which are appropriate for the age and stage of the children being cared for. The childminder takes good steps to minimise hazards to keep children safe. For example, all cleaning materials are stored in the garage where the children have no access.

The children benefit from the childminder's vigilance with regards to safety outside the home. Written emergency details are held for all minded children and the childminder ensures she carries a portable first aid kit in the car and in her possession at all times. This enables her to deal effectively with minor injuries when out and about in the community. Children are kept safe in the event of a fire as fire control equipment is available, smoke alarms are fitted and the childminder has a fire evacuation plan. However, the fire blanket is not sited securely which puts children at risk.

The childminder is confident in her procedures with regard to child protection issues. The children's welfare is protected as the childminder has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and fully understands her responsibility in reporting any concerns and safeguarding the children's welfare.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very relaxed and settled within the childminder's home. They make decisions for themselves concerning the toys and play resources they wish to play with. This fosters their early independence. For example, they choose to dress up as Spiderman and a Chinese Emperor and use their imagination when acting out their play. Children are confident in their play and approach the childminder to ask questions about the resources they are using and ask for help when the trousers will not stay up. The childminder chats to them and encourages the children's language development as they learn about the world they live in.

Children's self-esteem is enhanced as the childminder praises them for achievement and good behaviour. She is aware of their individual needs and recognises when they need some quiet time and invites them to watch some television after lunch. Children sit together and snuggle up on the large settee and mimic the songs and the music as they watch their favourite programme. Children play well together and learn good social skills as they share their games. For example, when pretending to be film characters they share an imaginative game and help each other with buttons and fastenings. Children's social skills outside the home are encouraged as the childminder regularly visits toddler and community groups where outings and activities are planned such as painting, gluing and visiting local parks.

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

The provision is good.

The children benefit from the childminder knowing them well and having an understanding of their individual needs. They are able to access a variety of resources including books, puzzles and small world figures to help them gain an awareness of diversity. Festivals such as Chinese New Year and Divali are celebrated as well as the traditional English festivals. The childminder has a diverse range of resources that reflect various festivals and children are encouraged to take part in decorating the playroom to reflect the current theme such as Halloween. The childminder is proactive in providing an inclusive environment and has very good experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The children are well behaved because the childminder is involved in their games. She sensitively intervenes to encourage sharing and uses age-appropriate behaviour management, such as "time out" and discussion for the children. Praise, encouragement and the "sweetie treat" are used well to reinforce good behaviour and this boosts children's self-esteem and confidence. The children benefit from the good relationship which has been built up with parents through exchanging information at the start of care and ongoing through daily discussions at the end of the day. The childminder works closely with the parents with regard to such things as home and school routines which benefits the children through continuity of care. This enables parents and the childminder to work together and celebrate children's progress whilst they are in her care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The children are settled, happy and familiar within the childminder's home. They are relaxed, moving confidently to access a good range of resources which are stored at a low-level to enable choice for all age groups of children. The childminder has a good routine which builds in opportunities for developing children's social skills as they visit local amenities such as the

childminder's drop in group or the park for the school age children to run and let off steam on the way home from school. She organises her time well to give children the individual attention they need.

The childminder liaises with parents well and this supports children's care. She shares details of her care routines and activities with parents from the start and keeps them informed about the children's activities and aspects of their progress daily. Written policies and procedures provide parents with good information about the childminding business and the ethos of the care provided. An accessible notice board in the playroom informs parents of the legal requirements of the childminding registration as well as events within the childminder's home and the local community. Written documentation is informative and organised well to maintain confidentiality and all consents are in place to promote children's welfare and care. The childminder attends some training courses such as Birth to three matters and first aid to improve her practice which benefits the children. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to provide resources to reflect positive images of disability and gender. More resources have been obtained so children have access to books, small world toys and puzzles, therefore their growing awareness of difference in society is enhanced. In addition she was asked to develop a sickness policy and share this with parents. The childminder liaises with parents well and this supports children's care. The documentation is informative and organised well to maintain confidentiality and all consents are in place to promote children's welfare and care.

### **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):

- ensure the fire blanket is sited securely.

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)