



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY304974
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 October 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Karin Lane

<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 2005. She lives with her husband and young baby, in Southwater, West Sussex. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. Toilet facilities are located upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one child under 5 years part-time and one child aged over 5 years after school. The childminder drives to collect children from school. The childminder attends a local parent and toddler group. The family has no pets.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from illness and infection because the childminder provides a clean and tidy home. The spread of infection is limited because children who are infectious are not admitted. Children learn about good hygiene practice through daily routines, for instance washing their hands before meals. Children's wellbeing is promoted as the childminder has good procedures in place for handling accidents and administering medicines. Regular opportunities for vigorous outdoor play, in the garden or nearby park enhance children's physical development. Meals provided by parents are stored appropriately, and children benefit from regular snacks and drinks.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a welcoming and comfortable environment and the childminder takes some positive steps to keep them safe. However, the childminder has not identified the risks posed to children from hot drinks, glass candle-holders and dangling cords. The front door is not secure and garden gates are padlocked, with keys not readily to hand, which could jeopardise children's safety. Children are well supervised and there are appropriate arrangements to keep them safe on outings. Toys and play materials are accessible, although the equipment available is insufficient for school-age children. Children's welfare is promoted as the childminder has secure understanding of her responsibilities regarding child protection.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure and respond well to the friendly childminder. They settle easily in her home, playing happily with the accessible toys. However, the range of equipment available is unlikely to attract or stimulate school-age children. Children become absorbed for short periods, for instance pressing the buttons on a toy disc player and dancing to the music. Adequate opportunities are taken to encourage speech as the childminder repeats the words children say and encourages them to use words appropriately, for instance "please" and "thank you". They enjoy kicking and rolling a ball and using the slide in the garden. Children are taken for outings and to parent and toddler groups, as the childminder understands the importance of children playing together and learning to share. However, there is a lack of interaction from the childminder during play and this limits the stimulation children receive. The Birth to Three Matters framework is not yet being used by the childminder to extend her practice when caring for young children.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Effective partnership with parents' supports children's wellbeing. Policies and appropriate information is shared with parents, there are trial visits and daily discussions. This enables the childminder to find out about children's interests and routines, and build upon her knowledge of them as individuals. The childminder has reasonable understanding about caring for children with special needs, including working consistently with parents. There are few resources to reflect diversity, which limits opportunities for children to learn positively about the world around them. Children mostly behave well, as the childminder has realistic expectations according to the stage of a child's development and sufficient understanding of how to manage behaviour. However, the observed response to inappropriate behaviour is negative, as "no" is used frequently, with a lack of explanation or use of distraction.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

A welcoming environment, which meets children's needs is provided by the childminder. The limited space at the childminder's home is well used and children can freely access toys and equipment. Children are protected from unvetted persons because the childminder is vigilant in her supervision. All required documentation is in place, supported by the provision of a well written port-folio of policies and information, which promotes children's wellbeing. The childminder has enhanced the care given to children as she has attended an Introduction to Childminding Practice course, and although she has not yet attended first aid training, she has been pro-active in booking a place on a course.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE**

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

<p>The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.</p>
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## 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 toys and resources are provided to stimulate and interest children of school age
- make sure that risks to children within the home and garden are minimised and that children cannot leave the house unsupervised
- ensure resources to help children learn about diversity are provided

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