



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY313617
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 February 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Lynn Reeves

<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 has been registered since 2005. She is registered to provide care for six children under 8 years and is currently minding six children on a part and full time basis. The childminder lives with her husband and their one child aged over 8 years in a residential area of Southbourne on the Hampshire/West Sussex border. Children have access to all areas on the ground floor including rest facilities with toilet facilities on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder is a member of National Childminding Association and regularly attends toddler groups with the children.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children are protected from the risk of infection as they follow good hygiene procedures, for example hand washing at appropriate times. The childminder has daily cleaning routines in place to safeguard children from cross-contamination, for example keeping worktops and toys clean, and wearing disposable gloves when nappy changing. Children follow a healthy diet as they are provided with fresh fruit and healthy options for snacks as a supplement to the meals they bring in from home. Lunch boxes that are provided by parents have their contents checked and stored appropriately. Parents' wishes are respected regarding children's dietary needs, which are then recorded on children's records.

Children experience a range of outdoor activities which contribute to their good health, for example they visit the park and walk along the harbour to feed the birds where they get fresh air and gentle exercise. Their physical development and large muscle movement is promoted when they ride the sit-on toys, kick footballs, dance to music and play on the swings and slides. The childminder has effective procedures in place for recording accidents and administering medication, and the required parental signature, to support children's health.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, comfortable environment, where toys and play provisions are displayed at low level in the lounge, to encourage children to make their own choices and to become independent. Children are able to play and move about easily whilst being supervised at all times. Children are provided with a good range of colourful and vibrant play provisions, which are suitable for their age and stage of development. Toys and equipment are regularly checked for damage and cleanliness to ensure children's safety.

Children access a safe environment where risks have been minimised, and written risk assessments are in place and reviewed regularly. Children learn why they should not run around indoors or climb on the furniture as they might fall and hurt themselves, and practise fire drills to keep them safe. However, keys left in the doors could easily be removed by children and impact on their safety in the event of a fire. Children are made aware of dangers through general conversation and daily routines; for example discussing road safety issues. Good procedures are in place for keeping children safe on outings; for example, the childminder ensures that emergency contacts details are taken with her and she uses appropriate restraints in buggies and cars.

The childminder is aware of the child protection reporting procedures and is able to recognise the possible signs and symptoms of abuse, although existing injuries on children coming into her care are not recorded and this impacts on their safety.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a relaxed environment, which make them feel secure. They benefit from the warm relationship they have with the childminder. Children have many opportunities to develop a range of skills and progress well in all areas in a stimulating environment; for example, playing with musical instruments, colouring, using construction toys and small world people. They are able to participate fully, and make their own choices. They feel valued as the childminder takes time to interact with their play and learning; for example asking them to count the steps to encourage their learning and praising them as they make marks to paper. Children use their imagination well as one child pretends to drive his car using a steering wheel, making the noise of the engine and beeping his horn.

Children are gaining good self-esteem and confidence as the childminder builds strong relationships with the children. Their needs are met effectively as the childminder has a good knowledge of child care development and has introduced the Birth to three matters framework. She adapts activities to ensure all children can participate and to keep them interested in their play. Their social skills and interaction are developed as they regularly attend toddler groups and mix with other childminders and their children.

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

The provision is good.

Children are treated as individuals and are made to feel valued and respected. They receive lots of praise which promotes their self-esteem and sense of belonging. They gain knowledge of the wider world through discussion, topics and playing with a range of toys that reflect diversity; for example, books, puzzles, ethnic figures and dressing-up clothes. Children gain a good understanding of the local community and environment as they visit the library, walk through the woods, along the beach and feed the birds at the local harbour.

The childminder maintains a very positive approach in dealing with special needs; she ensures that activities and resources are adapted to meet their individual needs. The childminder has realistic expectations from children. Consistent methods are used so they learn and understand consequences. She ignores the bad and praises the good behaviour to support children's self-esteem. Methods and strategies are discussed with parents. However, these procedures are not recorded to ensure a consistent approach. Children learn what is acceptable through discussion, praise and encouragement. The childminder maintain good relationships with parents, which ensures children's individual needs are catered for. Children's routines and activities are recorded in daily diaries and shared with parents. This two-way flow ensures children receive continuity of care. Parents are provided with a good range of information regarding the childminder's business via her prospectus, written policies and procedures.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are fully occupied and engaged with many play opportunities during their time at the setting. The childminder knows the individual children well and adapts activities and resources to meet their needs. They benefit from a well-organised and stimulating environment, where their health, safety and well-being are promoted through documentation, which is secured well. The childminder has many child care qualifications and is very active in updating her child care knowledge through regular training. Children's needs are met because she has implemented a good range of clearly-written policies and procedures and has introduced the Birth to three matters framework to increase her knowledge in this area. 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 have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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 children's safety regarding evacuation from the premises
- ensure records are maintained regarding children's existing injuries
- implement a procedure to record unwanted behaviour and share this with parents

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)