



Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** EY314339  
**Inspection date** 02 March 2006  
**Inspector** Sue Williams

**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** 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 2005 She lives with her partner and two children one of whom is pre school age and one a very young baby. The family live in in Southsea in Hampshire. The ground floor, toilet and one bedroom on the first floor are registered for childminding purposes. 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.

There is currently one child on roll.

The childminder walks to schools/pre schools to take and collect children.

The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group and other venues with the children.

The family have two cats.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are protected because the childminder takes strategic measures to limit the spread of infection and disease. For example, the childminder keeps her home very clean and ensures good hygiene procedures are in place. She uses latex gloves when necessary. She ensures surfaces and changing mats are clean and that nappies are disposed of safely and hygienically. Children learn the importance of personal hygiene routines and are developing good self care skills through daily routines and general discussion. Veterinary documentation verifies family pets are clean and treated. An exclusion policy informs parents that sick children are not accepted. Policies are upheld in practice. The children are further protected because the childminder has clear procedures in place for administration of medication. She records accidents occurring in the setting accurately which parents countersign and has documentation in place for written consent for emergency treatment, however the latter has not been signed by parents.

All children enjoy physical play each day. They are able to use the garden or enjoy outside visits to venues where they run and jump with other children or use specialised equipment to encourage large muscle development and spatial awareness.

Children benefit from enjoying healthy and nutritious meals in the setting. The childminder provides meals but this is negotiable. Children learn about healthy eating which is promoted through presentation, discussion and the named placemats the children have made which have pictures of foods which are healthy options. Dietary needs are recorded and addressed and religious persuasion respected. Meals are a happy and social time where children learn good manners by example.

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

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into a comfortable homely setting where furniture is arranged to maximise play space and encourage freedom of movement. They use the entire ground floor plus one room and the toilet on the first floor. The children also use a secure garden for outside play with suitable equipment and wheeled toys. Children's art and craft work is displayed on the walls in the kitchen which gives children a sense of pride and belonging.

Children use good quality resources which are easily accessible to them. They have all the facilities they need. For example, they use a low level table and chairs as well as the large family dining table and chairs in the kitchen. The babies have both high and low chairs and are included in all activities and mealtimes where possible. Toilets are very clean and have all the accoutrements necessary to meet the individual needs of the children. Children prefer to sleep in buggies as a rule but often relax on the comfortable chairs and sofa in the lounge. Suitable seats in the car are arranged and parental consent is obtained for car travel. All resources are of good quality and well maintained.

Children are safe and well supervised. For example, the front door is locked and visitors must ring to gain entry. Children are only released to persons named in the contracts. Children are learning to stay safe because they know the house rules. They are learning road safety and the behaviour expected when they go for walks to and from schools or to the park. Younger children are learning through listening to discussion and watching the older children as they practise road safety and hold hands or the buggy handles. Reins or wrist restraints are used if necessary and buggies and high chairs all have safety straps. Children are further safeguarded because the childminder carefully risk assesses her practice to ensure she minimises potential accidents both in the home and on outings.

Children are protected from abuse because the childminder understands her duty to safeguard children. She has a good working knowledge of possible signs and symptoms of abuse. Her written policy informs parents about this responsibility. Recording of accidents is a two way process although the pre existing injury book has nothing recorded at the time of inspection. The childminder handles the children with great care and respect, she takes any action necessary to promote and maintain the safety and welfare of children in her care.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled. The childminder knows the children very well. She presents them with a wealth of excellent quality resources which are clearly labelled, stored in transparent containers and easily accessed. There is a good balance of robust or quiet play and interesting activities. Children play happily together. For example, two children playing happily with the dough, the baby is feeding and listening. "I'm making a cake." "I'm making spaghetti." The children play happily alongside each other each engrossed in their own purposeful play, taking turns at using the spaghetti machine, pots and other tools. Photographic evidence shows children making jelly, baking cakes and ginger bread men. A wobbly cardboard box with cotton wool snow on the top and cars inside is the 'snowy mountain' they made during the recent snowfall. Children chat to the childminder and show the baby the constructions they make.

There is a good selection of equipment and toys available for the children, some are borrowed from the toy library. The current favourite is the story sack where children interact with the childminder who tells the story 'There was an old lady who

swallowed a fly' using the 'old lady' doll and all the things she swallows. The children post them in her mouth as the story unfolds. Children are taken on outside visits, for example they go to the park, beach, 'Tiny Tots' library, craft bank and other places of interest.

Babies are included in all play when they are not sleeping or feeding. The baby enjoys the sound of the childminder's voice and sits in her arms as she reads to the children. At the sitting up stage babies are included in craft activities either eating some bread and butter, watching and listening or are given something interesting or sparkly to touch, squeeze and examine.

Children develop new skills each day through playing with a range of thoughtfully presented apparatus and interesting and exciting activities. Supervision is vigilant at all times.

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

The provision is good.

Children value diversity. For example, the childminder's own family are of mixed race and children celebrate many festivals. Resources promote positive images of a diverse society and include books, posters, small world dolls in wheelchairs, some with sticks or spectacles, costumes from other nationalities in the dressing up box and no gender issues as the boys happily cruise around with dolls in prams pretending to be mummies or daddies.

All children are included in the setting. For example, through discussion the childminder clearly supports children who may have additional needs. Privacy for intimate care is assured.

The childminder works with parents and other professionals to maximise children's development and potential and adapts equipment and resources to meet their individual needs incorporating Individual Development Programmes within the daily routines and play. Children are confident to make their needs known and secure in the clear boundaries and safety measures imposed in the setting.

Children are considerate, for example they take turns and look out for one another. They are learning the rules of the setting and how to stay safe and behave well when at the meal table or on outings.

The childminder has a good awareness of the differing levels of children's understanding and behaviour. Children are courteous without being inhibited. Praise is awarded throughout the day. Children are praised for good behaviour but also for achievement such as managing personal hygiene, taking turns or being helpful or kind to one another. The written behaviour policy is upheld in practice.

Children's needs are met through the childminder's highly valued partnership with parents. She liaises with them on a daily basis both verbally on arrival and departure and via an exchange book.

Children also have personal scrap books with photo's and art work saved for parents as well as craft work they take home. Parents have access to the regulators details. The childminder uses the new 'in house' complaints procedure which she received with the amended standards, guidance and addendum.

Contracts are carefully discussed and negotiated and consent forms are discussed and explained. Parents have access to all the policies which are contained in a file including information for parents about the setting together with the childminder's qualifications, insurance cover and clearance details on family members.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are well cared for because the childminder is suitably qualified and experienced to do so. She pursues ongoing training and attends meetings and training workshops to enhance her practice which has a positive effect on the children.

Children are well supported because the childminder ensure ratios are maintained and children receive good quality care. Supervision is vigilant throughout the day and children are never alone with unvetted persons.

The childminder uses her time well and has a clear sense of purpose. She organises many exciting and interesting visits for the children. They walk to and from schools and toddler group. The childminder organises membership to Sure Start, resource banks and libraries to further extend children's development and understanding of the wider world. For example, they go to the parks, beaches and walks where they collect treasures to bring home to examine, paint or glue into their scrap books. They visit local places of interest. Children enjoy watching the Hovercraft and shipping coming in and out of Portsmouth. They like Tiny Tots and other venues where they meet other children for robust play and use specialised apparatus. Children enjoy story time at the library and visiting the toy library and craft bank which is an Aladdin's cave of resources.

Children are both stimulated and well cared for in the setting.

Most documentation is in place. The childminder uses records effectively. Information is filed securely in respect of confidentiality. All records can be easily accessed and are readily available for inspection at any time. Information is shared with parents and regularly updated and reviewed annually.

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 to record since registration. 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):

- implement procedures for written consent from parents/carers for emergency treatment for children attending the setting.

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)