

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 155655  
**Inspection date** 30 April 2007  
**Inspector** Catherine Greenwood

**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 2002. She lives with her husband and three children aged 16 years, four years and three years. They live in a semi-detached property in Aldershot, Hampshire. Local amenities are within easy walking distance. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding four children, three of whom attend before and after school. The ground floor of the house is used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is a qualified nursery nurse, and also holds a level two NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) in Child Care and Education.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children currently attending have a packed lunch provided by parents. The childminder provides varied snacks during the morning and afternoon such as fresh fruit, raisins, bread sticks and biscuits. Children are provided with a choice of water or squash and drinks are made easily

accessible to the children at all times. Children develop good independence, for example, the childminder uses displayed charts to ensure they all get a turn with helping, for example, when helping to serve at snack time. Children learn about good hygiene practice because the childminder ensures they wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate.

Children develop gross motor skills as they use the bikes, cars and slides at toddler group. In addition, they take part in group activities such as games using the parachute. Children learn to climb and slide using equipment in the childminder's garden. They visit local parks where they play football, use bats and balls and older children enjoy using the tennis courts. During these visits they have plenty of space to run around freely and safely. Younger children enjoy using balancing beams and bouncing around in a soft play area, which the childminder visits once or twice a week.

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

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe within the childminder's home. For example, there is a high level lock on the front door and a safety gate at the bottom of the stairs. This means that children cannot leave the premises unsupervised, or access the upstairs rooms which are not used for childminding purposes. The childminder has a good awareness of potential safety hazards, and has currently made the main part of the garden temporarily inaccessible due to repairs to the fence. She has sectioned off the decking area so that children can still play outside, and use activities that she sets up near to the patio doors. There is a good range of safe and well maintained resources that the childminder makes easily accessible in well organised boxes in the dining room.

Children are kept safe when travelling in the childminder's car, because she uses appropriate seating and has a good knowledge of the current regulations. On outings, the childminder uses buggies and reins for younger children. Older children learn that they have to stop at the next lamp post so they are not out of the childminder's sight. Children's welfare is fully safeguarded because the childminder has current documentation available and a secure knowledge of child protection procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children show enthusiasm for playing with organised activities such as play dough, where they develop good hand and eye co-ordination as they push and cut the dough and make pretend hair. They persist at activities because the childminder finds additional resources such as tools, and a tray to organise their creations. Children are keen to show the childminder what they have made from the play dough and she praises them for their achievements. Communication between the childminder and children is very relaxed. The childminder asks children questions which helps to develop their vocabulary and imagination, for example, children roar and pretend they are tigers.

The childminder regularly provides children with a range of creative activities such as painting, collage, cornflour and cooking within her own home. This means that children have good opportunities to develop their senses and become confident with trying new experiences. The childminder uses planned activities for younger children to learn, for example, by giving them their own shopping list, with pictures of the ingredients needed for cooking. The childminder

provides age appropriate activities for older children. They can choose their own resources and enjoy drawing, writing and looking at books. The childminder uses a written weekly plan to identify resources and activities. Each child has their own scrap book which the childminder uses to collate children's work. Children feel proud of their individual achievements because the childminder suggests they give the scrap book to their parents for Christmas. Children benefit from daily outings to places such as toddler groups and soft play areas where they can socialise with other children, learn to share and join in group activities. For example, singing, listening to stories and art activities. The childminder runs the toddler group one day a week.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and secure in the childminder's home because she has a good knowledge of their individual needs and provides a stable routine. She aims for children to feel part of her family, and consequently they are relaxed and secure in her care. Children benefit from the good relationships which the childminder establishes with parents. This means that older children feel comfortable with talking about any concerns they have, for example, at school, because they trust the childminder. In addition the childminder discusses and negotiates any changes to be introduced that will help children to develop and make progress, for example, with potty training and learning to drink from cups without lids.

Children are usually well behaved. This is because they know the house rules, such as sharing toys and no fighting or swearing. The childminder ensures that children understand the boundaries, through talking about the type of behaviour she expects within her own home, and that any differences will not be accepted. Children learn to say 'please' and 'thank you'. The childminder uses a star chart to help children feel good about their achievements. She informs parents about children's individual behaviour and discusses any concerns. However, there is no system in place to record any significant incidents. The childminder is not currently looking after children with learning difficulties and/or disability but is happy to do so. Children develop a positive view of differences because the childminder has resources that reflect positive images, which include a good range of books. They have access to puzzles, games and dressing up clothes both at the childminder's home and at toddler group.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder sets up activities on the decking which is adjacent to the kitchen. This area is fully enclosed, which means that children benefit from being able to choose to play inside or outside in good weather. In the summer, children are protected from the sun and can make good use of the garden throughout the day, because the childminder sets up two gazebos to provide shade. There are very well organised record keeping systems and written policies and procedures in place which are shared with parents. These contribute to children's well being and care. Children's individual records are attractively presented, and include a photograph of each child with all necessary written parental consent. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection, the childminder agreed to review and update documentation. She has devised a written procedure to share with parents regarding late collection of children. This means that partnership with parents has been improved.

## **Complaints 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. 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 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):

- devise a system to record significant incidents of children's behaviour

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)