



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	317743
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 August 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Sharon Watson
<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 1995. She lives with her husband and two teenage daughters in Hatfield Woodhouse, a small village near to Doncaster in South Yorkshire. The whole ground floor, first floor bedroom and bathroom of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered for six children at any one time and currently has six children on roll. The childminder has a dog.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group, takes children to the local library and parks.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children benefit from a clean and tidy home and the hygiene procedures implemented teach the children to take responsibility for their own hygiene. For example, children independently use antiseptic wipes for hand washing prior to eating and after patting the dog. They routinely use the table for all snacks and meals, therefore they learn good hygiene practices. Policies and procedures to maintain children's health and welfare are mostly in place. However, parental consent to seek emergency advice or treatment in the interests of the children has not been obtained.

Children partake in regular walks on a daily basis, in particular walks to and from school and around the local area. This helps children to gain a positive attitude towards exercise and healthy living. Robust physical play is also enjoyed by the children at the local park. Children access a limited range of outdoor resources, that generally promote their physical play and development. For example, bats and balls, skipping ropes and wheeled toys.

Children receive a balanced diet in partnership with parents. A packed lunch is generally provided and stored in the fridge to promote children's health. Children are provided with fruit on a daily basis and along with discussion this helps the children to learn about healthy eating. Sugar free drinks and fresh drinking water are offered to children throughout the day. Feeder cups are provided for the younger children and this helps them to access drinks when they are thirsty.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children benefit from an environment that is light and airy and of an appropriate temperature during the summer months. This ensures children remain comfortable as they carry out their play and activities. The children access a satisfactory range of equipment and resources that are suitable to their age and stage of development. Resources are safe and well maintained and all broken toys are discarded to ensure the children's safety. They are seated comfortably in the lounge as they relax whilst watching television. The effective use of the dining table enhances opportunities for children to engage in table top activities.

The safety of the children is mostly considered at all times. For example, a clear fire safety procedure is in place and discussed with the children. Outdoor play is freely accessible to the children throughout the day. However, the risk to their safety when using the outdoor area has not been fully assessed. Children are learning to take responsibility for their own safety, in particular they discuss and follow the road safety procedure when taken on outings. They generally benefit from the childminder's satisfactory knowledge of signs and symptoms of abuse and the local Safeguarding children board's procedures.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are at ease in their care and very much at home. Their relationship with the childminder is good as they respond to her banter with enjoyment. As a result of this children are developing a sense of humour. They enjoy an adequate range of toys and resources that are rotated on a daily basis and generally maintain their interest. The 'Megasketcher' is favoured by the children and used to create pictures that they keenly show to the childminder. Praise and encouragement is given to the children in recognition of their pictures, therefore raising their self-esteem. The childminder also uses this opportunity to extend children's learning by asking leading questions. For instance, 'do you think this person needs some arms and why?'

The children are keen to help with limited daily chores, for example, putting out the washing and some pot washing, therefore developing growing independence. They cooperate well with each other as they greet on arrival with enthusiastic chatter. Children also benefit from attendance of the local playgroup to enhance their learning and development. At times children lacked interest in the play resources available and there is little opportunity for them to engage in creative play. They access a computer and suitable software and this helps to develop children's computer skills and hand to eye coordination.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children benefit from the childminder's commitment to finding out about their individual care needs. She works closely with parents, sharing information on a daily basis to reassure parents of their children's routines and progression. Policies and procedures mostly keep parents informed of setting details and procedures and this generally helps children settle into the setting. However, the complaints procedures is not up to date with current practices. Although parents are provided with a written agreement of their children's care this does not include activities available to children. Therefore, parents are not always able to share in their children's learning.

The children are treated with equal concern and play provision is well balanced, helping children to choose their play opportunities without discrimination. The children are learning about diversity through discussion and television, however, there is little opportunity for children to access resources that positively promote diversity through play. The children benefit from the childminder's positive approach towards bullying. For instance, working consistently with parents to manage bullying in the best interests of the child. A special needs policy is implemented well and concerns regarding children's development are acted upon.

The children are well behaved and remain generally interested in their play, this ensures few incidents of difficult behaviour. Children are well mannered and use please and thank you appropriately, for example, when they receive a snack. The rules of the setting are discussed with the children and this helps them to take responsibility for their own behaviour. Children know they have to share their toys, and comment on this. They also learn to settle their differences where possible with little intervention from the childminder.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Furniture is organised well in the main play area and helps children to move around freely and use resources effectively. Separate designated areas help the children to establish a routine, for instance, children independently access the dining table for lunch and to engage in table-top activities. Toys are adequately organised in the main play room for children to access, although at times children have to request resources. Adult-child ratios are met and an accurate record of children's attendance is maintained.

The children's care and learning is generally enhanced by the childminder's commitment to training and development. Their details are clearly documented, well organised and stored securely. They remain individual to ensure confidentiality for the children. Documentation is reviewed regularly to keep parents up to date with changes to the setting. Children are never left alone with persons not vetted, however the vetting procedure is not effectively organised. 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 provider was asked to ensure: that appropriate fire safety procedures are implemented; that parents are given details of children's activities; the attendance register is maintained up to date; and consent is gained from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and to administer medication to children. Most of the improvements have been implemented to ensure the safety of the children.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by the parents, which they can see on request. The complaint 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 satisfactory. 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):

- obtain written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment in the future

- ensure that children can play safely outside and are not exposed to hazards
- ensure children have access to resources that promote diversity
- ensure that persons over the age of 16 years living in the household when children are being minded undergo checks including a criminal records check.

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)