



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	401284
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 November 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Mandy Black
<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 2000. She lives with her husband and daughter, aged seven years, in the village of Skeeby, near Richmond. The family home is a detached bungalow with all rooms used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden to the rear of the property which is not currently used. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time. She is currently caring for eight children on a full and part time basis. The childminder is able to collect children from Ravensworth Pre-School, Scorton Pre-School, Richmond Methodist Primary School and Middleton Tyas Primary School. She is a member of the National Childminding Association. Family pets include a cat.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health is well considered by the childminder. For example, she has a well implemented sickness policy and does not care for children who have contagious illnesses. Children are well supported to understand simple good health and hygiene practices, such as hand washing. They are always gently reminded to do this before eating and after using the toilet. The childminder provides thorough explanations about why it is important to minimise the spread of germs to keep them all fit and well. Children also use spray gel in addition to washing hands, particularly if they are handling food.

Children have plenty of fresh air and beneficial outdoor exercise. For example, younger children particularly enjoy walks to see the birds and trees. All children use the local parks frequently, where they exercise different muscles by using the various equipment. Older children successfully develop their coordination and skills, such as manoeuvring corners, as they ride bikes and scooters in the quiet cul-de-sac, closely supervised by the childminder.

Children enjoy a wholesome, well-balanced diet which promotes their good health. Typical snacks include fresh fruit, as well as a variety of home-cooked meals with fresh vegetables. Children have free and easy access to drinks, which ensures they are not thirsty. Younger children help themselves to their own feeder cups which are kept full, whilst older children frequently use the drinks dispenser on the outside of the fridge.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in safe and suitable surroundings. For example, all areas are regularly risk-assessed to minimise hazards to children, the front door is kept securely locked and children are closely monitored at all times. Children do not currently use the rear garden as the childminder considers it is not suitable following extensive building work to her property. Toys and equipment are all regularly checked and cleaned to keep children healthy and safe, particularly those used by babies and toddlers.

The childminder gives high priority to children's outdoor safety, such as by using wrist straps that contain her mobile telephone number when taking children out on trips. Car safety is very well considered, parental consents are in place and the childminder is fully compliant with recent changes to legislation. She ensures that children are safe and closely supervised when using large play equipment, such as the trampoline, which she limits to older children. Children are very well supported to gain an excellent awareness of fire safety and how to keep themselves safe in an emergency. For example, the childminder places 'feet templates' on to the floor during fire practices to guide children to their nearest exit, and actively involves them in discussions about fire safety.

Children are safeguarded because the childminder is very clear about her important child protection responsibilities. She has attended additional training recently, which ensures she is fully aware of local procedures to follow in the event of her having any concerns.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a range of suitable activities for all age groups and uses development charts to highlight milestones to share with parents. Children show high levels of concentration as they sit at the table to colour in pictures. They easily recognise colours and experiment precisely with glitter glue. They are actively encouraged to be independent and do things for themselves, such as using the toilet, putting on their shoes, and carefully dressing the mouse figures. Younger children are well entertained by the older children which helps support a caring, family atmosphere.

Enjoyable days out, such as Beamish Open Air Museum, enable children to acquire new knowledge and information to support their learning. They are appropriately challenged as they construct their own railway tracks and build purposefully with blocks. Children thoroughly enjoy the additional social contact they receive when meeting regularly with friends cared for by other childminders. They are very confident speakers, chatting freely and easily to the childminder about subjects such as their dancing lessons, tales about different family members and what they would like to get for Christmas.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder ensures that children are cared for successfully, in line with their individual needs, due to the excellent relationships she has established with their parents. Daily diaries are used in addition to effective verbal communications, and all parents access a range of well-presented information about the childminding service. A complaints record is available, along with a written complaints policy, but this is not presented in line with the required format.

Children behave well and respond successfully to the childminder's firm but fair approach and very clear boundaries in place. This ensures that they know what is acceptable behaviour and how to respect and play harmoniously with others. They are able to make frequent choices in their play and freely ask the childminder for particular activities, such as the play dough or the mouse figures. The childminder's warm and friendly disposition ensures that they arrive with enthusiasm, settle easily and feel a strong sense of belonging in the welcoming environment. She is positively supporting their understanding of environmental issues, as they all take an active part in sorting out household rubbish and food items for recycling and composting.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a range of informal policies and procedures that definitely reflect her good practice and support positive outcomes for children. However, she does not share these

sufficiently with parents to raise their awareness. Childminding documentation is all in excellent order, well maintained and up-to-date, which supports children's safety and well-being.

She demonstrates a high commitment to continual development, which has a beneficial effect on children's care, having attending the full range of National Childminding Association training courses as well as various training workshops, including child protection awareness. The childminder has a high regard for the well-being of all children and works well within the required ratios. She intentionally keeps her numbers low and manageable so that she can provide a quality service to all children and families.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

Since the last inspection, the childminder has ensured that parents are fully aware of procedures to be followed if they have a complaint about the childminding care provided for their children.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

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 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):

- revise the existing complaints record in line with amendments to registration requirements, and ensure that policies and procedures relating to the care and well-being of children are shared effectively with parents.

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)