



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	400992
<b>Inspection date</b>	27 November 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Linda Cook
<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 runs her childminding business from the family home which she shares with her husband and two children aged 12 and nine years. The childminder lives in a semi-detached house on the outskirts of Helmsley in North Yorkshire. She employs an assistant, who occasionally assists with the childminding. She is currently caring for 10 children under eight years, all attend part time. Children have full use of the ground floor and only access the first floor to use the bathroom and the main bedroom which is used for rest purposes. There is an enclosed garden to the side and rear of the property for outdoor play.

The childminder has been registered since 1993 and has links with the local primary and nursery school and playgroup where children can be delivered and collected. Children are transported by car with parent's permission. Family pets include a goldfish and rabbit

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained home. They learn the importance of good personal hygiene routines, the childminder ensures they wash their hands before eating and baking, after playing outdoors and attending to personal care needs. The children's health is protected through the childminder's clear understanding of how to prevent cross infection and this is reflected in her daily routines and clear written sick child policy.

Children are well nourished and begin to learn the benefits of healthy eating. They are provided with varied snacks and drinks throughout the day. The childminder is willing to provide meals or accommodate the wishes of parents who prefer to send packed meals. Children are encouraged to try different foods, for example, they help to prepare curries, grow cress to have in their sandwiches and in the summer grow fruit and vegetables in the garden. The childminder discusses with parents their children's dietary requirements and any specific needs are recorded and catered for.

Children enjoy regular opportunities to take part in physical activities. They like to accompany the childminder to her brother's farm to see the animals and visit the river to feed the ducks. They visit local play parks where they use the fixed play equipment to develop their physical skills. They also enjoy using a wide variety of play resources in the secure garden. These include, wheeled vehicles, climbing apparatus, slide, sand pit and play house. They have opportunities to enjoy the fresh air in all weathers as the childminder ensures they are appropriately dressed. The children talk excitedly about putting on Wellington boots and jumping in puddles on wet days.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment where risks are identified and minimised. Indoors the childminder provides safety gates, smoke alarms, socket covers and a fire blanket. Outdoors there is a secure, well resourced play area. There is a clear emergency evacuation procedure in place and children are provided with opportunities to practise this. Children are taught to cross roads safely on trips out and the childminder uses reins and wrist straps when appropriate. As a result children are able to move around safely, freely and develop an understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

Children develop their independence to a good level as they select activities from a very wide range of good quality toys and equipment which meet safety standards. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises activities and toys to ensure they are safe, clean and appropriate for their use and the children's age and abilities. Children are able to develop in an environment which is child centred and encourages individual choices.

Children's welfare is well promoted by the childminder. She has a clear understanding of child protection issues and has attended training to update her knowledge. Relevant information is

kept on file for reference, should she have concerns about a child in her care. She has a written child protection policy and encourages parents to inform her of any injuries a child arrives with. She also holds a current first aid certificate and has the written consent of parents to seek medical advice which ensures children can be appropriately cared for in an emergency.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminders house. They are relaxed in her company and make themselves at home. The childminder has a good knowledge of how children learn through play; she provides a wide range of activities which she adapts to meet the individual children's needs and interests. As a result, children of all ages are motivated, enjoy their play and make good progress in their all round development. Children are provided with opportunities to bake on a regular basis. They particularly like to help to knead the dough for the bread which they then eat at snack time. They enjoy a wide range of craft activities. For example, they made witches for Halloween and the older school age children have made their own board games. On their walks out they collected leaves and used to make Hedgehog collages. Children of all ages have opportunities to explore and investigate on local walks and trips to places of interest. They particularly enjoy visiting Newby Hall where they can ride on the miniature train.

The childminder is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework; has attended training and has started to incorporate in her planning. However, very young children have limited access to non-specific play materials which limits their opportunities to explore texture and form. Children develop their independence to a good level as they initiate their own play and select resources. The childminder is attentive to their needs and joins in their play effectively extending their learning. For example, she asks the children what they think will happen next and which of the toy animals do they see when they visit the farm. Young children also enjoy quiet times with the childminder when they like to sit on her knee and read stories together. Children of all ages can be active or rest according to their needs.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder knows the children she cares for very well and confidently talks about their likes, dislikes and interests. Positive relationships developed with parents and the enjoyment of the children's company enables the children to settle very well. There is a satisfactory range of resources which enable children to appreciate diversity in our culture and all children have equal access to toys and resources.

The children are well behaved and developing good manners, with gentle reminders from the childminder should they forget. They respond very well to the childminders positive approach to behaviour management and enjoy the praise and encouragement they receive for all the achievements great and small. Children play harmoniously together and learn to share, take turns and begin to respect the needs of others. Children with learning difficulties and /or disabilities are welcome and the childminder is willing to work closely with parents and others to ensure their needs are recognised and met. She attended a sign language course when she

was approach to care for a child who was deaf. She uses this knowledge to teach the children simple signing, increasing their understanding and awareness of disability.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her time very effectively to meet the needs of the individual children she cares for. The available space and resources are well organised to promote easy access and children's independence. She is very aware of the younger children's individual routines and these are effectively accommodated to ensure consistency of care. She has a positive approach to her own development and the inspection process. She is an experienced child carer and continues to attend regular training to ensure she keeps up to date with new developments and to maintain the quality of care she provides. This ensures all children make good progress in all areas of their development.

All requirements of the National Standards for documentation and record keeping are met effectively. Comprehensive and clear written policies and procedures are in place, regularly reviewed and a copy given to parents. Documentation is very well organised to ensure it can be accessed easily in an emergency, while maintaining confidentiality. 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 childminder was asked to keep a record of times when an assistant was present and ensure parents sign all medication records. The childminder now uses a calendar to record times when an assistant is present and ensures parents sign all medication records. This further safeguards children's health and welfare.

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

Since 1 April 2004 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 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 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):

- extend learning opportunities for young children, for example, by continuing to implement the 'Birth to three matters' framework, in particular children's access to non-specific play materials.

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)