



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	311032
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 February 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Maralyn Chiverton
<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 outstanding. 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 July 1997 to care for no more than six children under eight years of age at any one time. When minding with an assistant may care for no more than 10 children under eight years of age. At present there are seven children on roll who attend on a full and part-time basis.

The whole of the ground floor is used for minding with access to a designated playroom. There is an enclosed area for outdoor play. The childminder lives with her husband and two children aged six and eight years in Birstall on the outskirts of Batley, close to local parks, schools and shops.

She takes and collects children from school and is a member of an accredited childminding network.

The childminder has achieved a recognised quality assurance kite mark.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are provided with excellent opportunities to learn and understand about healthy living and the importance of fresh fruit and vegetables through daily routines and exciting activities, such as helping to prepare smoothies. The childminder is very pro-active in helping children gain an excellent understanding of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. For example, children are able to choose a favourite meal which the childminder will prepare. This opportunity is then used to discuss the nutritional value and benefits of eating healthily. Younger children are provided with fresh drinking water, whilst older children competently help themselves.

Children are kept free from infection through the implementation of a meticulously detailed sick child policy which effectively minimises the risk of cross-infection from illness. For example, parents are requested not to bring their child if they have a rash or infectious disease until completely clear. The childminder cares for younger children in an exemplary way. For example, meal times are treated as an opportunity for children to enjoy their food and become independent in feeding themselves. Children are encouraged to develop their physical skills through regular access to a wide range of outdoor equipment, such as wheeled toys, pop up tunnel, skipping ropes and trampoline. The childminder has excellent knowledge of the needs of the children in her care, for example, she recognises the signs of tiredness and uses this information to provide periods of rest.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are kept very safe in welcoming premises that are secure at all times. They are able to move with safety and freedom. The childminder carries out daily risk assessments before children arrive. Any concerns are recorded and addressed. Risks of accidental injury to children are effectively minimised because the childminder is extremely vigilant and children are constantly reminded to be careful when playing and to be aware of others. The childminder has an excellent understanding of how to achieve a balance between giving children freedom and setting safe limits. For example, she encourages and supports younger children to discover their own limits and boundaries.

Children are empowered to take responsibility for their own safety. They are efficient at tidying up after themselves and also learn from experience how to keep themselves safe. For example, they have a very good understanding of the reasons for fire evacuation drills, which are regularly practised. They have the use of a designated playroom as well as an excellent range of high quality toys and equipment that are safe, suitable and purposeful. These are stored and displayed attractively and allow children to self-select with safety and independence. Children's welfare is very well protected through the play worker's excellent knowledge and understanding of the policies and procedures to follow if they have any concerns regarding child protection issues.

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

The provision is outstanding.

All children arrive happy and eager to participate. They are extremely confident and self-assured and show excellent involvement in their play. Children are provided with a stimulating, learning environment and are provided with a rich, varied, imaginative, range of activities and experiences offered, such as designing their own posters and t-shirts. This significantly enhances children's learning and allows them to be extremely confident and self-assured. They take control of their own learning and are pro-active in deciding which activities they would like to be offered at future sessions. Older children record what activities younger children would like to participate in.

Children benefit from the highly comprehensive understanding of the childminder, of how children learn through play. Her enthusiasm, high motivation and wealth of skills and experience, ensure children make excellent progress. Younger children are offered highly innovative opportunities to explore experiment and play through access to 'treasure baskets' which contain a wide range of natural materials, such as wooden rings, shells, and natural sponges. They develop their imaginative skills through acting out stories using small world figures. The childminder records children's progress through, 'special books' where pieces of their work with additional comments as well as photographs of themselves at play are included. She introduces learning plans based on the individual interest of each child, which enhances and further develops children's progress.

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

The provision is outstanding.

All children are welcomed and play a full and extensive role in the setting through the excellent high regard the childminder places on children's individuality, and her comprehensive understanding of the needs of the children in her care. Children's ideas and views are well respected and valued. They benefit from an environment which is rich in promoting diversity through a wealth of excellent resources, such as books depicting sign language linked into everyday routines, discussion and celebration of other festivals. The childminder is a positive role model who gives the utmost priority to promoting children's understanding of their needs and those of others. For instance, she uses stories to discuss a range of feelings, such as enjoyment, anger and sadness.

Children are extremely well behaved and actively contribute in taking personal responsibility for their behaviour. Children with learning difficulties or disabilities benefit from the childminder's clear knowledge and understanding of the issues concerning such children. An excellent partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well-being in the setting. Parents receive lots of quality information and receive daily feedback on how their child has spent their time. They feel valued, their views and ideas taken into account. Their understanding of how children learn through play is effectively implemented through the recording of children's progress and information given by the childminder.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from an exceedingly well managed and organised provision. A designated playroom with clear areas for learning allows children to access all toys and activities with freedom and independence. The childminder is enthusiastic, highly motivated and has an excellent understanding and awareness of her role and responsibilities in developing children's learning. She is highly skilled and actively involves herself in children's learning which provides an excellent contribution to children's, enjoyment, achievement, and the ability to take an active part in the setting. The childminder is committed to improving her provision through a continuous programme of training and self-development to ensure children receive optimum care and attention.

Highly effective use of meticulously well written policies and procedures ensures children's care, safety and welfare are well promoted and the provision runs smoothly and efficiently. The childminder works exceedingly well in partnership with parents who receive very good information about the provision. They are encouraged to share any views, ideas as well as personal information to ensure children's individual needs are taken into account.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Since the last care inspection the childminder has taken very positive steps to improve children's safety. For example, children take part in regular fire evacuation procedures. This ensures that they have an appropriate understanding of what to do in the event of a fire.

## **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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)