

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY265966
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Donna Suzanne Lancaster
<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 July 2003. She lives with her husband and their two children aged six and eight years. They live in a house in the Layfield area of Yarm. It is close to local amenities including shops, schools, doctors surgery, dentist and parks. The ground floor of the home is used for childminding purposes. Bathroom facilities are within this area. There is access to outdoor play which is fully enclosed.

The childminder is registered for five children under eight years. There are currently ten children on roll, of which six are aged under eight years. Children attend on a part time basis.

The childminder is a member of National Childminding Association and the Yarm and Ingelby Barwick Childminder group.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children develop their physical skills well because the childminder provides plenty of opportunities to be outside in the fresh air, for example, they go for walks in the community, visits to the park where they can run and play ball games, they enjoy playing in the garden on the bikes, cars and trampoline. Younger children are taken to toddler groups regularly. Children especially enjoy going on trips and outings during the school holidays, they talk enthusiastically about their visits to the sea side, tropical world, the sea life centre and the farm. Babies are able to move and develop their climbing, crawling and walking skills successfully as they attempt to pull themselves up on the furniture and as they reach for their toys. This shows their awareness of learning to do things for themselves as they gain confidence.

Healthy eating is promoted through discussion and children are offered a varied selection of fresh fruit and vegetables daily, the childminder provides home cooked meals, and sample menus are available to parents. The childminder takes account of parents' wishes, so that children's individual health and dietary requirements are met successfully. For example, parents of the babies provide their own food. Drinks are provided throughout the day and are readily available. Each child has their own cup and babies have feeder cups which are appropriate to their stage of development.

The childminder provides a very clean environment and children begin to understand simple, good health and hygiene practices, such as when to wash their hands and why. There are individual towels for children to use to minimise the spread of germs. Children are encouraged to become responsible for their personal care by helping themselves to tissues when needed and brushing their teeth after meals to keep them clean and healthy.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an extremely clean, safe and welcoming environment. The premises are carefully risk assessed on a regular basis, to maintain children's ongoing safety, reduce the risk of accidents and to help keep children safe. For example, the premises are secure, cleaning materials are inaccessible to children, covers are placed over exposed electric sockets, stair gates are positioned to prevent children having unsupervised access to stairs and the hearth is covered. However, the corners on the fender are exposed. This is a potential danger to children. Fire safety is enhanced as the evacuation procedure is practised regularly, which helps children to learn to keep themselves safe. Children are supervised effectively and there is a procedure to follow in the event of a child being lost or uncollected. This further promotes children's safety.

Children's development is enhanced through the provision of an excellent selection of toys and equipment which is varied and broad ranging. The equipment is effectively used by the childminder who provides activities that are stimulating and fun. The ongoing safety and suitability of the toys and equipment is ensured through the childminder implementing an effective policy of checking after each use and regular cleaning.

The childminder is very secure and confident in her ability to protect children, she has attended relevant training and has written her own child protection policy, which she shares effectively with parents.

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

The provision is good.

Children are extremely happy and sociable. They greet each other on arrival with happy smiling faces and immediately invite them to join in with their painting activity. Although some of the children are very young, the older children sit with them at times and encourage them to play with the toys available, for example, the building bricks, the push along toys, the dolls and the activity centres. They play well together with lots of chattering, giggles and smiles. The babies continue taking a keen interest in the range of activities, such as the musical activity centre, push and spin toys and the sensory toys even when the older children go off to do their painting activities. The childminder recognises signs of tiredness in babies and young children and acts upon this knowledge to plan and support appropriate periods of rest and activity. Children have developed very good relationships with the childminder and are confident and relaxed in her company. They receive constant warm, physical and verbal support and encouragement.

The childminder incorporates themes in to the planning of activities, for example, learning about different countries, their nationalities, traditional costumes, tasting food they eat and the culture festivals to enable children to extend their play and learning experiences successfully. Children can safely access the resources, toys and equipment as they are stored appropriately at child level; this allows even the youngest to make choices for themselves and direct their own play.

An interesting and challenging programme of activities is provided by the childminder. Children can choose independently from an excellent range of easily accessible, developmentally appropriate, good quality play resources. Activities available include, craft activities, baking, construction and small world toys. Children benefit from effective routines which provide plenty of fresh air and exercise, and opportunities to socialise. They have access to varied outdoor activities which include trips out, walks to the shops, library and the park. Their physical development is further promoted through access to a variety of local activity centres and play sessions. The childminder has attended training on the 'Birth to three matters', and plans suitable activities in line with the aspects and approach within the framework.

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

The provision is good.

Parents have very good information about the setting and their child's progress, for example, they receive comprehensive information through individual, detailed policy and practice folders. However, the systems for recording complaints needs to be further developed. There is an induction process in place for children to ensure they settle well. All written parental permissions are in place and are up to date. Verbal daily discussions take place between the childminder and the parents to ensure all individual needs are met effectively. Complimentary letter and cards, confirm that they are extremely happy with all aspects of the childminding service and the positive impact this has on their children.

The childminder has a good knowledge of equal opportunities. She demonstrates a very positive attitude towards inclusion and has access training to develop her own knowledge and understanding surrounding equal opportunity issues. All children are fully included in activities.

They are learning about the world around them and are actively encouraged to value people, and themselves, as individuals. They enjoy a wide range of interesting books, toys and celebrations of different countries to develop their awareness of other people's cultures and traditions.

The childminder has a very positive, cheerful approach and a thorough understanding of managing behaviour. She is an excellent role model for the children to follow and her effective use of praise and encouragement ensures children feel self-assured. Distraction is the main strategy used for very young children, whilst older children have developed a house charter of rules, for example, 'do's and don'ts' this is displayed in the kitchen area for all to see.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The effective routines and very well planned activities enable children to be confident and happy in their play. They benefit from a good range of indoor and outdoor experiences, giving them a varied and interesting day. The home is organised in a way that allows children to access designated areas of play. For example, craft and messy activities are undertaken in the kitchen at the large table. The childminder's service is greatly enhanced by her commitment to further training and personal development opportunities.

The childminder's records and documents are very well organised and are stored with a high regard for confidentiality. They are used well by the childminder to accurately reflect her working practice and support the care of the children, enabling her to promote very good outcomes for children. All documentation complies with regulations. The childminder has written and adopted a full range of clear, informative and detailed policies and procedures which she shares very effectively with all parents. This contributes to continuity in the children's care and enables the childminder to meet their child's needs well.

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 ensure that documentation relating to the vehicle used to transport children was available and contained necessary information. This documentation is now included in the parents' information booklet, further ensuring children's safety and keeping parents informed of relevant documentation.

### **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):

- ensure the corners on the fender are inaccessible to children
- further develop the system for recording complaints.

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)