



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY265924
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 February 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Ann Doubleday
<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 September 2003. She lives with her two children aged five and eight years in Ingelby Barwick. The ground floor of the home, one back bedroom and the bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two pre-school children, and seven children before and after school. Children attend for a variety of sessions. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and attends the local toddler groups. The childminder is in the process of completing the Stockton Kite Mark, a quality assurance scheme.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a range of physical activities that contribute to their good health. Activities include opportunities for children to be outdoors on most days. For example, as they walk to school or play in the garden. Children are able to rest or be active according to their individual needs.

Children's health is supported by the encouragement of some personal care routines. For example, appropriate nappy change procedures are in place, children are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and older children wash their hands before eating meals and snacks. However, younger children do not wash their hands before eating their snack. This means good hygiene procedures are not fully promoted. The childminder has satisfactory procedures in place regarding sick children, administration of medication and accident recording. Consent has been requested from parents for seeking medical advice in an emergency, however, the medication record is not always accurately completed and parents do not sign to acknowledge the entry. This means children's health needs are not fully met. The childminder has not yet renewed her first aid certificate, consequently children are at risk should an accident occur.

The childminder has a satisfactory awareness of healthy eating. She takes account of parents' wishes for their children and complies with any special dietary requirements when providing drinks and snacks, however, the food provided is not always healthy. Drinks are readily available in the play areas for children to access independently so that they are not thirsty.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment where most risks of accidental injury to children are identified and minimised. For example, socket covers are used on most low-level electric sockets and a cupboard lock is used on the cupboard where household cleaning materials are stored. However, the radiators are too hot and present a burning hazard. Children learn how to keep themselves safe as the childminder teaches them about road safety. There are satisfactory arrangements to keep children safe in the event of a fire. The required fire safety equipment is in place and is tested regularly, and an emergency evacuation procedure is practised with the children. This means children are safe in the event of an emergency.

A good range of equipment and toys, which are of good quality, are provided to promote children's development and welfare. Toys are stored well, at child level, which allows children to make choices for themselves and direct their own play. They are washed and checked regularly to ensure they remain safe. Children enjoy playing with the toys available to them.

Children are effectively safeguarded because the childminder understands her role in child protection. She has a sound awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse and is aware of the procedures to be followed should a concern arise.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of child development and this means that children's personal, social and intellectual development is well fostered and supported. Close and caring relationships have been developed between the childminder and the children, which increase children's sense of trust and help them to develop a strong sense of self.

The childminder provides a good variety of interesting and purposeful activities. Consequently, children are motivated and interested. Children have opportunities to develop their creative skills, for example, as they paint pictures they have selected themselves from the internet and as they take part in cutting and sticking activities. They also have opportunities to take part in free play, as they select resources from the well stocked playroom. Children's self-esteem is developing as a result of the childminder encouraging and praising them. Children are settled and happy in the childminder's care.

Children's communication skills are developing well as a result of the childminder talking and listening to them. The childminder is interested in what the children do and say and becomes actively involved in their play, for example, as she plays with the cars with the older children, while giving cuddles and maintaining some eye contact with babies. As a result, children are interested, motivated and their all-round development is promoted.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, resulting in all children feeling valued and free from discrimination. They access a range of resources and take part in activities, which increases their awareness of diversity. For example, they have access to dolls and books and take part in activities about Chinese New Year. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met. Children learn about the local community, as they take part in outings to the library, to the local park to visit the animals and to other places of local interest.

Children develop good confidence and positive self-esteem through receiving plenty of praise and encouragement for their efforts and achievements. They also receive stickers and 'Super Student' awards. As a result, children are well behaved and are kind and considerate to each other.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the childminder has developed with their parents. The policies and procedures of the setting are shared effectively with parents and their views about their child's needs are actively sought before the child starts. This enables the childminder to meet each child's individual needs. Parents are kept verbally informed about their child's day and activities. The parents of the younger children also receive written feedback about their child's day.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are settled with the childminder and in the environment. This means that they are happy in their play. Space is used well to cater for the children's play needs. They are able to move around confidently and independently. Adult to child ratios are maintained with good organisation of time to meet children's individual needs. The childminder keeps her own knowledge up to date by attending further training; the knowledge gained is used to develop the care that is given to the children. However, a requirement of registration has not been fully met as she has not yet renewed her first aid certificate.

There are effective systems in place for the daily sharing of information with parents about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. All legally required documentation is in place and stored confidentially, however, the record of medication is not fully developed and the record of children's attendance is not completed accurately for all children. This means children are not fully safeguarded.

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 agreed to complete written agreements with all parents. She has now improved documentation by ensuring that written agreements which set out the expectations of both parties, as to the care of the child and business arrangements, are in place. This means that partnership with parents has improved and enables the childminder to meet children's individual needs.

## **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 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):

- make sure all medication records include the date medication is given and are signed by parents to acknowledge the entry
- assess the risks to children in relation to the temperature of the radiators and take action to minimise these
- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- ensure the record of attendance accurately shows the times of all children's attendance.

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)