



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY225175
<b>Inspection date</b>	07 June 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Hilary Mary Mckenning

<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 first registered in 2002. She lives with her husband, adult daughter and 14 year old son. The family live in Darton, near Barnsley. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden to the rear for outside play. The family have a cat.

The childminder may care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently caring for eight children on a part time basis. She drives or walks to take children to and from local schools.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and Barnsley Childminders Together.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and supportive environment where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. For example, the childminder encourages the children to develop self-help skills and as they independently access the bathroom facilities. Effective hygiene procedures are in place as each child has their own labelled drawer. This practice reduces the risk of cross infection.

Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their good health. They regularly play outside where they enjoy fresh air while developing physical skills. For example, younger children learn to manoeuvre trundle toys and while older children go up and down the slide safely. The younger children are included and join in all activities at a level appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Children are beginning to understand the importance of a healthy diet as they enjoy regular drinks and nutritious snacks and meals, which contribute to children's good health and nurture development. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and the children's choices to provide nutritious snacks that appeal to children and meet their dietary needs. Meal times are social occasions where children can enjoy their food and develop their conversational skills as they recall what they had eaten for snack. Young children use fingers and spoons, while older children use eating utensils skilfully.

### **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. They are able to move around safely, freely and independently as appropriate action has been taken to minimize risks. This results in children having the opportunity to freely explore within safe surroundings. Children are becoming aware of their own safety and are developing strategies to avoid accidents. For example, they are familiar with road safety and can explain how they use the pelican crossing.

Children access a good range of quality resources allowing them to make choices safely. Children's toys and equipment are monitored to make sure they remain safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. She ensures that areas used by the younger children are safe and free from hazards. For example, she picks up any small pieces of toy to reduce the risk of choking.

The childminder has a basic understanding of signs and symptoms of abuse. She is aware of her responsibility to protect children and has systems in place to safeguard their welfare.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled with the childminder. They are familiar and secure with the established daily routines that allow time to play, rest and eat together. Arrangements with parents are in place to meet individual children's needs. The children relate well to each other and respond to the childminder who has a caring and sensitive in her approach to them. The childminder is skilled at meeting the many needs of children and ensures each child has equal access to a stimulating balance of activities. For example, babies and toddlers enjoy exploring the contents of a 'treasure basket' while older children build a tower of bricks.

Children relate well to the childminder and each other, enjoying the time they spend together. There are close and affectionate relationships where cuddles are a regular feature. Children are learning appropriate social skills and enjoy being with other children and adults. This results in them being able to build meaningful relationships.

Children enjoy the outdoors and regularly make good use is made of the garden. They have space to run and move freely in a safe and supportive environment. For example, they enjoy ball games and this helps develop co-ordination and physical skills.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with equal concern and their individual needs are met. This is due to the childminder taking time to get to know the children and working with parents to ensure their daily routine is followed. Children are happy, content and are showing a sense of belonging. They are familiar with daily routines and have formed good relationships with each other, the childminder and her family. This results in children being independent and feeling safe and secure, through which they develop self-confidence, a belief in themselves and healthy self-esteem.

Children's awareness of the local community is promoted through regular outings and visits to local carer groups. They have equal access to all resources and are beginning to learn about the wider world through the use of books, small role-play people and dolls that positively address diversity.

A clear and consistent approach to managing children's behaviour encourages children to behave well. They learn right from wrong in a warm and caring environment. Clear instruction and guidance is given to children and this results in them knowing what is expected of them. For example, clear explanations are given, when they are asked to conform, or in the case of younger children, distraction techniques are used effectively.

Partnerships with parents and carers are satisfactory. Children's individual needs are generally well met because the childminder makes sure she determines what is important to children and their parents. For example, she finds out about children's preferences and routines at the initial visits. However, information is not routinely shared with parents about their child's daily activities

and experiences. Therefore, parents are not fully involved in their child's care. The childminder has friendly relationships with parents which contributes to the children's overall well being.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home and comfortable within their surroundings. The childminder organises space and resources appropriately so that children's individual needs are generally well-met. This results in children remaining settled and feeling secure in their surroundings.

Documentation is organised to ensure confidentiality is maintained at all times. Most of the required records are in place to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. However, not all recommended procedures are routinely followed, such as recording existing injuries to children.

The childminder is committed to improving her practice through relevant training opportunities. For example, she has recently renewed her First Aid certificate. Children are supported in their learning and care as the childminder provides good levels of supervision. Overall, the provision meets the needs of children who attend.

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

At the last inspection, the childminder was required to address issues related to record keeping. She has reviewed all of her paperwork and now makes sure that she has all required parental consents and has systems in place to seek medical attention. These measures help to safeguard children in the event of an accident or illness.

The childminder was also required to develop her knowledge and awareness of child protection issues. She has now obtained advisory information from the local authority about child protection and the procedures to follow if she has concerns. She has familiarised herself with the booklet, which makes her more confident to deal with any issues if they arise. These measures help to safeguard children's welfare and ensure they are protected from harm.

In addition, it was recommended that the childminder extend the range of resources to reflect diversity within society. She has more books, role-play equipment and play figures that show positive images of other cultures. This helps to raise children's awareness about culture, ethnicity and disability.

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

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. There are no complaints to report.

## 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):

- ensure all recommended procedures are implemented e.g. a record of existing injuries to children
- consider further ways to share information with parents about their children's experiences and activities.

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)