

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	300151
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Susan Kathleen Wormald
<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 was registered in 1989. She lives in Sheffield with her husband and two older sons, within walking distance of local schools and shops.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She is currently caring for four children before and after school on a part-time basis, three of whom are under five years. Minded children have the use of the through dining and sitting room. There is an enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The family has a dog.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder provides a clean, warm home and follows effective hygiene routines to prevent the spread of infection. For example, each child is provided with their own soap and towel. Children learn about personal hygiene and good practice through daily routines and the support and guidance of the childminder. They are reminded to wash their hands thoroughly after using the toilet. Tissues to wipe their noses and wipes to clean

their hands are readily available and can be reached independently. The childminder finds out about children's individual needs, such as eating and sleeping routines and dietary requirements, by consulting parents.

Children enjoy a broad range of opportunities that promote their enjoyment of physical activity and the outdoor environment. This contributes to keeping them fit and well and ensures they make good progress in their physical development. Young children have everyday opportunities to develop confidence and control of their bodies and to practise and develop physical skills. They have access to a fully enclosed garden and are encouraged to use this by activities which arouse their interest, such as hunting for snails using their own buckets. Children walk to school in all weathers and visit local parks and playgrounds where they have opportunities to use large outdoor equipment. Children enjoy nutritious snacks and meals, which include a variety of fruit and vegetables. Children's understanding of healthy eating is promoted as they talk to the childminder about the importance of eating healthy food and what foods are good for them.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in safe, child-friendly home where potential risks are identified and minimised. This means they can move around freely and safely. Children learn to keep themselves safe as the childminder helps them to understand danger and consistently reinforces safe practice. They practise road safety when out walking and know that they need to hold hands and wait to cross the road.

Children enjoy the use of a broad range of good quality resources and equipment that are appropriate for their age and stage of development. Resources are stored where children can see and reach safely and easily, enabling them to independently select these and make choices about their play.

Children's welfare is safeguarded effectively because the childminder has a secure understanding of how to protect children and recognises that this is her first priority. She has a sound understanding of what child abuse means and the possible signs. She is clear about procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child and shares these with parents.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They are comfortable and at ease in the setting as they know that the childminder is interested in what they do and say, because she listens, asks questions and is involved in their play. Her attention, support and encouragement promote their confidence and self-esteem. Children share a warm and friendly relationship with the childminder. She maintains a friendly dialogue as they play together and this contributes to their sense of security and belonging. They communicate with each other well and enjoy each other's company.

Children are offered a variety of interesting and enjoyable activities and play experiences which support and challenge their development. The childminder's good understanding of how children progress and how best to support this, promotes their learning. They really enjoy a painting activity which develops from painting houses to painting using their hands and fingers and using a range of craft materials. They are encouraged to think for themselves and to solve simple problems as the childminder asks 'will this fit?' when they are dressing a doll. Children

are enthusiastic and motivated as they frequently plan and initiate their own play. The childminder understands the adult role in children's play and gives them the freedom to develop their own ideas. They become totally absorbed in imaginative play, dressing up as fairies, pretending to be babies and reading to each other. Children benefit from a wide range of pleasurable and interesting experiences outside the setting. They visit local parks and libraries and enjoy trips further afield such as to Chatsworth House and a butterfly farm.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met well as the childminder takes time to get to know the children, is sensitive to their particular needs and works in close partnership with parents. She finds out what is important to them and uses this information to increase their confidence and sense of well-being. Children learn to feel special as the childminder finds them a favourite doll. They are helped to feel at home as they understand familiar routines and know where to find their playthings. Their understanding and awareness of diversity is promoted, for example, through the use of a range of books. These introduce them to the wider world and help them appreciate differences.

Children are learning to behave well and to manage their own behaviour. They are encouraged to share and co-operate as they play and are gently reminded if they forget to say 'please' and 'thank you'. They respond well to the childminder's clear and consistent boundaries and her calm and positive approach. Children follow the good role model of the childminder and treat each other with courtesy and consideration during their play.

The childminder works in close association with parents and keeps them well informed about their children and their progress. The childminder maintains strong links with families and the majority of children have had siblings placed previously. This contributes to children's well-being and helps ensure they are settled and secure. She talks to parents about her childcare practice and has some helpful written information available. Parents have very positive views about the quality of care for their children and support for themselves and write about her helpfulness and kindness.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are secure and well cared for because the childminder organises her time effectively to promote their play and care. This ensures she has time to meet children's demands and is able to give them some individual attention. Children are offered a range of suitable and interesting activities both inside and outdoors where they can relax and play and which help them progress and develop. The childminder makes good use of local facilities, such as libraries and parks, and plans regular trips and outings which are varied and interesting.

The childminder demonstrates a positive commitment towards her own personal development and has improved her knowledge by attending relevant training. For example, she has completed a level three National Vocational Qualification and has attended training in the 'Birth to three matters' framework, which is reflected in the good practice with children under three years. The childminder shares information daily with parents about children's activities and care needs, ensuring consistency and continuity of care. Some written policies support the childminder's practice. However, procedures regarding complaints have not been fully updated to reflect

current guidance. 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 parents are made aware of her child protection procedures. The childminder discusses her child protection responsibilities with parents before children are placed and makes sure they understand her procedures. This ensures that children are suitably protected.

### **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):

- review complaints procedures ensuring that they fully reflect current requirements and that parents are made aware of them.

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)