

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	320751
<b>Inspection date</b>	30 May 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Liz Whitehead
<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 2000 and lives with her husband in Bramley, a suburb of Leeds. The ground floor of the property is used for childminding purposes and there is an enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The family has a pet dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for nine children on a part-time basis. They are taken and collected from school and the childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about good personal hygiene through consistently washing their hands before snacks and meals and after toileting. The childminder always takes wet wipes and hand washing gel on outings to ensure that good hygiene practice is always promoted, including when they are not at home.

Mealtimes are a relaxed occasion with children sitting and eating together at the table. The childminder sits with them and develops their social skills through encouraging them to talk about their day. Healthy and home-cooked meals are provided in accordance with the children's individual dietary requirements and their parents' wishes. Children enjoy eating fruit and vegetables and learn about foods which are healthy through trying new foods, such as sprouts, which they help to prepare.

Children have many opportunities for exercise, fresh air and outdoor activities when walking to school, playing in the garden and at the park. They regularly practise large physical movements when sliding, swinging, dancing to music and doing obstacle courses. Children recognise when they are thirsty and freely access drinks from their individual cups.

Children sleep according to their individual requirements, routines and their parents' wishes. Young children sleep in their own pushchair to provide a familiar environment to make rest time a comfortable and relaxed experience.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

A first aid box is readily accessible in the home, one is in the car and one is always taken on outings to ensure that any minor accidents are dealt with quickly and appropriately. To ensure parents can be contacted at all times both a landline and mobile telephone are available and written contact details are taken on outings. Appropriate car seats suitable for all ages of children are available and the childminder is fully aware of and has complied with changes to legislation.

Effective systems are in place to ensure that children cannot leave the premises unaccompanied. These include the gates being secured when children are playing in the garden. This also prevents unwanted persons from entering the premises. The childminder effectively raises children's awareness of safety issues and reminds them to put their shoes back on after playing in the ball pool, so that they do not hurt their feet. Safety mats are used outdoors; however, these are made of unprotected foam which children are able to access.

Children are not familiar with the emergency evacuation procedure as it is not practised regularly; therefore, they are not aware of how to leave the home quickly and safely. A fire blanket is readily available in the kitchen in case of emergency and smoke alarms and a carbon monoxide detector are appropriately fitted.

Children are protected as all parents are made aware of the childminder's responsibility regarding child protection. She has literature to refer to regarding the signs, symptoms and procedure to follow. The childminder is fully confident in dealing with any issues.

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

The provision is good.

Children share a warm and trusting relationship and form close bonds with the childminder. They have plenty of fun with lots of affection and cuddles. Good interaction takes place and the childminder is sensitive to the children's play. She does not interrupt as they play really well and co-operatively together when involved in a complex game of role play.

The children are skilful communicators and many activities promote their language development. They enjoy playing games and their favourite is alphabet bingo. They state they enjoy coming to the childminder's to play outside, to ride the scooters, play with their friends and make new friends.

A good range of activities appropriately cover the areas of learning and incorporate a combination of planned outings and also child-led activities. Children develop active imaginations and enjoy dressing up in masks that they make. They experience a wide range of activities and recall when they decorated the doll's house. They laugh together about how they put the bathroom in the kitchen and the kitchen in the bathroom.

Children learn basic mathematical concepts through a number of activities, including playing with magnetic numbers on the fridge. They use the till and play money, which develops their ideas and concepts of the value of money. Children are encouraged to express themselves creatively through a number of mediums, such as music, singing, painting, gluing and using play dough.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are very effectively met as the childminder records information which she gathers from the parents. She knows the children well and has cared for them for many years. She encourages them to make decisions by self-selecting toys and equipment. The childminder encourages children to progressively become independent through daily activities, such as using the bathroom.

Relationships with parents are good, which enables the childminder to care for children according to their parents' wishes. She has implemented a number of strategies to keep parents fully informed regarding their child's care and development. These include daily discussions and children regularly taking baking and creative work home to enable parents to share their achievements. The childminder does not have a system in place to record complaints, which is a breach of regulations.

Children learn about their community through walks in the area and visiting local groups. They receive positive images of the diverse world in which they live through daily play and a variety of resources, such as dolls, jigsaws, dressing up and small world play. However, resources are limited that reflect positive images of people with disabilities.

Children develop a positive self-image through the childminder praising them in their play. They know what is expected of them through the childminder setting a positive example and managing behaviour consistently. Children develop good manners and follow the childminder's lead, with young children spontaneously saying 'please' and 'thank you'. They show care and concern for each other and ask if they are all right. The children behave and play together well.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are very settled and confident within the childminder's home and are cared for in a child-orientated environment, with a selection of toys available for them to independently access. They happily approach the childminder for cuddles and to ask for further resources

from the shed. Parents comment that the childminder is very friendly and approachable, and cares for children as though they are her own.

Relevant checks have been completed on all appropriate adults. Effective systems protect children from persons who have not been vetted, as they are not left unsupervised. The certificate of registration is prominently displayed for parents to view.

Space within the home is organised well, with lots of floor and table space available to enable children to spread out on and to extend their play. Children are able to move freely between the indoors and the outdoors, which they do with confidence and really enjoy this freedom.

Most of the required documentation is in place to promote children's health and well-being. Confidentiality is sufficiently maintained as records are only accessible to the childminder. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

Since the last inspection the childminder has mostly addressed the issues raised. She has enhanced children's safety and well-being through implementing a safe collection procedure and developing her knowledge of managing children's behaviour. She has acquired limited resources to promote positive images of disabilities; therefore, a further recommendation is raised.

### **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):

- raise children's awareness of fire safety through writing and regularly practising the emergency evacuation procedure
- ensure that foam safety mats do not pose a hazard to children
- devise and make parents aware of the procedure to follow in case of complaint
- extend the resources that promote positive images of disability.

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)