

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY271038 |
| Inspection date | 01 August 2007 |
| Inspector | Debra Elizabeth Jean Dahlstrom |
| Type of inspection | Childcare |
| Type of care | 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.

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 2003 and lives in a three bedroom semi-detached house on the outskirts of Handforth with her husband and school age child.

Children can access all areas of the home apart from the small front bedroom. There is an enclosed rear garden for children to play. The childminder is registered to care for four children and currently has seven children on roll.

The childminder holds an NVQ level 3 childcare qualification and is a member of the National Association of Childminders.

The childminder is able to collect children from Grange Primary School which is within walking distance of her home.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder takes positive steps to ensure children's health is maintained as children benefit from regular routines to keep them safe and well. Children remove their shoes when they come inside the home and through her care learn about hand washing and the need to protect themselves from germs.

All children have good opportunities for physical play as the childminder places great emphasis upon providing safe yet challenging activities, thus developing their confidence and self esteem. They make good use of the garden and the fixed play equipment, such as swings. The childminder also ensures children are provided with adequate rest or sleep for their individual needs.

Children are offered sufficient food and drink for their needs with dietary requirements and preferences taken into account. Fresh fruit is available daily for children, as is water and low sugar fruit drinks which ensure children remain well hydrated. The childminder has positive approach to healthy eating, she strongly encourages children to try a variety of foods, which are presented in attractive and interesting ways. They make pizza faces, for example, using button mushrooms for eyes which prove to be very popular for all the children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure and welcoming environment. The computer room is the focus of children's play although they are free to use the lounge and often make good use of the garden. This room is brightly decorated with children's work, with a handprint tree being their most recent creation. They enjoy their time in the home and with enthusiasm, make good use of the good quality toys and equipment. These are stored on open shelving and a low level in clear storage boxes for ready access.

The childminder is vigilant about safety and has good systems in place to help keep children from harm. Babies and young children are placed in correct sleeping positions and monitored carefully. Children also learn about potential dangers and how to keep safe in ways that are meaningful to them. The childminder has an evacuation plan in place in the event of a fire which was discussed and agreed with the Fire Service. Although, to date children are not familiar with the procedure as it is not practised. The childminder is also mindful of accidents and has a portable first aid kit which she keeps, in her bag or in the car as required for children.

The childminder has a secure understanding of her role to protect children and the procedures to follow if she had concerns about children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from very warm and supportive relationships with the childminder. She is lively and affectionate, offers encouragement and speaks to children in gentle tones. The childminder is involved in children's activities and is very interested in their well-being, she spends time listening and talking to them. As a result children are happy, confident and secure in her care. They readily comment upon their favourite activities and discuss their experiences. They talk

about their work on the wall, the mixing of primary colours for instance, to make purple hand prints of orange and brown.

The childminder is skilful in including many activities in their play which support children's learning and challenge their thinking. Children's favourites are often used by the childminder to promote their learning. Younger children use number frequently in their play, their love of tractors for example, is used to build models with four wheels. School age children are supported very well as the childminder takes an active interest in children's project work. She provides many opportunities for children of all ages to take part in activities around the themes covered in school, such as 'Space' or 'the Egyptians'. Thus children's learning is extended.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern as the childminder has a secure understanding of their stages of development. Children are well cared for as the childminder commits time in getting to know them and is skilled in ensuring they all receive appropriate individual attention. They are secure and their self esteem is promoted well as the childminder places great emphasis upon encouraging and supporting their needs. Therefore children are confident and self assured in her care.

Children feel valued and respected as the childminder is calm and is an excellent role model, she praises the children continuously for their efforts. Children have very good social skills, they readily use please and thank you when making requests. Young children are learning to care for each other they give 'hugs' and 'loves' as they greet each other after awakening from their sleep time.

A strong emphasis is placed upon welcoming parents and their children into the childminder's home. This promotes a good working relationship. Exchange of information ensures the childminder is informed to develop and support the children's needs. A daily written record of sleep routines, meals and drinks for young children enables parents to be well informed about their child's day.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is motivated and enthusiastic, children's care is enhanced as the childminder manages her day well and is very organised in her childcare practice. The childminder can effectively support and meet the needs of all the children in her care. She provides a good balance of structure and flexibility to the day's activities incorporating routine periods for rest, sleep and meal times. The childminder's caring and child centred approach ensures children are happy and secure.

The childminder makes good use of her time and the space in her home to benefit children. She dedicates time and energy in playing and talking with children to enhance overall learning.

The relevant documents are displayed for parents to see and information regarding the children, enables the childminder to support the children's individual needs. A portfolio contains many examples of menus and activities for parents as well as photographic evidence of children's experiences. Other necessary documentation is in place and overall generally accessible. 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 ensure prior written parental consent is obtained in the event of medical treatment being required. Therefore children's health and safety is promoted.

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 evacuation plan is practised with children.

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