

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY272395
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 May 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Christine Snowdon
<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 2003. She lives with her husband and their daughter in Wortley, a suburb of Leeds. There are local shops and a park within walking distance. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has a pet rabbit.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five and two over five; all children attend for part-time care. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local childminding group.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because the childminder has some good hygiene routines in place which keep the premises clean and well maintained. Children are learning to keep themselves clean as they wash their hands before meals and after toileting. However, younger children's hands

are not always cleaned before lunch. The childminder's written sickness policy limits the risk of cross-infection. Children's individual health needs are met effectively and all medication administered to them is recorded.

Children benefit from the daily opportunities to play outdoors and enjoy fresh air. They enjoy playing in the garden where they pedal, steer and use wheeled toys. They visit the local parks regularly to climb, swing and balance on the apparatus. At the soft play area they climb and negotiate the obstacles in a safe and fun environment. They walk to and from the school on a daily basis and enjoy walks around the local area. Children's individual sleep routines are respected and they happily settle down for their rest.

Children are well nourished and are learning about healthy eating. The childminder and parents encourage them to eat a variety of fresh fruit and other healthy options. Some parents prefer to supply their own children's meals whilst the childminder provides for others. The childminder encourages lots of fresh fruit and provides a good variety and choice, for example, strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and apples. Children have access to fresh drinking water throughout the day. They are also offered drinks at snack and meal times when they have a choice of water, milk or fresh orange juice. This ensures children do not become thirsty.

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

The provision is good.

Children stay safe as the childminder pays careful attention to their safety both within the setting and on outings. The children are able to move about with confidence as the childminder has organised space and resources effectively. As a result, they select their own resources and develop independence. Children benefit from the wide range of play equipment, which is appropriate for their individual age and stage of development. Toys are stored in the main play room and garage and are rotated regularly to offer maximum choice.

Children are cared for in an environment which is free from hazards as the childminder is very safety conscious. Children are involved in learning about their own safety and are developing a good understanding of the importance of staying safe. For example, the childminder reminds them to sit properly when using equipment so they do not tip over. The childminder promotes their understanding of fire safety procedures and they practise the evacuation plan so they know what to do in an emergency situation. They learn about the dangers of traffic when out and about, by crossing the road safely and staying close to the childminder.

The childminder has completed child protection training and has a sound knowledge of child protection procedures. This means she is knowledgeable about how to protect children should the need arise.

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

The provision is good.

All children settle very well at the childminder's home; her warm and friendly approach makes them feel welcome and part of the family. They are interested and motivated in their play and concentrate well for long periods. They spend a long time fitting the pieces into the shape sorter and making jigsaws. The childminder uses her time very well and is involved in the children's play and learning. They use the building cups to stack them up together and she asks them to count how many. They tell her there are ten, and then nine when the childminder takes one away. This activity promotes good mathematical understanding. They know their

colours and correctly identify orange, green, black and pink spots on their tights. They enjoy the musical instruments and play the tambourine as they sing nursery rhymes and action songs with the childminder. Their learning and development is supported well by trips and outings to places of interest, for example, to the railway museum where they see Thomas the Tank Engine.

Children benefit from the good range of creative opportunities planned and provided. They paint, draw, glue and use different malleable materials such as play dough and modelling clay. Older children relax and unwind after their day in school by watching television, playing board games or being outdoors in the garden.

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

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to develop positive attitudes to our diverse society through various ways including discussions with the childminder. There are various resources that reinforce these issues, such as small world figures that include disabilities, dolls of both genders and books. They get out and about in their community and meet other children and families through attending nursery, school and toddler groups.

All children are respected and valued as individuals. They quickly develop a real sense of belonging as they are made to feel welcome in the childminder's home. Children's individual care and development needs are met well. Children's behaviour is very good. They have high levels of confidence and self-esteem due to the childminder's positive praise and encouragement. They know what is expected of them and follow the childminder's simple rules and boundaries. Children play harmoniously together, sharing resources and taking turns.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the childminder has developed with the parents. She actively seeks their views and they share information daily to ensure children receive continuity of care. The letters of support from parents show they recognise and appreciate the care their children receive.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her premises and resources well. As a result, children self-select and make independent choices in a safe and suitable manner. Children benefit from the positive interaction from the childminder, assisted at times by her husband. Clear records of attendance ensure ratios are met and children are well supported. She is involved in the local childminding network and attends relevant training to improve and develop her own practice.

There is clear and detailed documentation in place which is well organised and thorough. Policies and procedures are in place and shared with parents. There is a complaints log in place and the childminder's registration certificate is displayed and adhered to. Contracts and individual children's records are kept up to date to ensure continuity of care. The consent forms for permission to transport children in her car have been issued to parents but not all have been completed.

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 obtain consent from parents in order to seek medical advice in an emergency and obtain a list of notifiable diseases.

The childminder now has the necessary systems in place to ensure children's health needs are met. The parents have given written consent and there is a list of notifiable diseases on file for future reference should she need it.

### **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 all children's hands are cleaned prior to meals and snacks
- ensure written permission is obtained from all parents with regards to transporting children by car.

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)