

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	300112
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 September 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Geneen Yvonne Hulse-Brown
<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 has been registered since 1995. She lives with her family in a detached property in Sheffield. Local shops, schools and parks are within walking or driving distance.

Children have access to a playroom and bathroom on the ground floor, kitchen/dining room, conservatory and hallway on the first floor and the bathroom and one bedroom on the second floor. There is a fully enclosed area for outdoor play to the rear of the property via the conservatory, with additional play space to the front via the playroom. Children are escorted to and from local schools.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding nine children who attend on a full and part time basis.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children happily undertake a wide range of fun activities that contributes to keeping them healthy. They go on walks in the park, climb in the garden and enjoy fresh air as they develop good control of their bodies. Children have fun as they explore their surroundings, extending their physical skills both indoors and outside. They enjoy riding bicycles and climb stairs with increasing confidence. The childminder takes the children on regular outings, to the park, toddler group, swimming and further afield to broaden their knowledge of their environment.

Children are starting to know when they are hungry and thirsty. They ask for fruit and talk about which fruit is their favourite, enjoying healthy and nutritious meals and snacks, provided by the childminder in agreement with parents' wishes. Children help themselves to bottles of juice and water when they want a drink. They sit together at the table chattering as they enjoy melon and grapes for snack. The childminder demonstrates a high commitment to healthy eating and a good understanding of all the children's likes, dislikes and allergies.

Children are developing a good understanding of the importance of personal care, as they are cared for in a warm and clean environment. They know that they wash their hands after going to the toilet and to stop their fingers being sticky after eating fruit. Children learn good practice through the childminder's planned daily routines and consistent approach to hygiene.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in welcoming and child friendly home where all potential risks are minimised. They move freely around the home both indoors and outdoors in safety, developing their independence. Children choose to play indoors or in the garden, as the childminder maintains good levels of supervision. She carefully considers their ages and abilities as she allows them more independence. The childminder talks to the children about how to keep themselves safe as she reinforces good practice. She uses language they understand to explain about taking care, for example, when climbing stairs and discussing fire safety.

Children make good choices of toys, games and activities that meet safety standards. Equipment is set out in the kitchen and freely available in the downstairs playroom to offer the children space to make choices and request anything they cannot see. Children explore their environment in safety as they choose where to play and what to do. They are encouraged to help tidy away and move obstacles to prevent accidents.

The childminder demonstrates a high regard for the children's well-being. She has started to develop written procedures to keep children safe and discusses fire safety with the children when they are old enough to understand. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate and shows a secure understanding of child protection issues and procedures. However, she has a limited knowledge of the new Local Safeguarding Children Board recommendations and procedures. The childminder maintains all required documentation effectively for recording accidents, incidents, medication and concerns.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle very well at the childminder's home. They are busily involved in a wide range of interesting and stimulating activities. Children are confident and demonstrate their independence, as they help themselves to toys and games. They enjoy moulding play dough, using cutters and flying toy aeroplanes around the house. Children happily involve visitors to the house in their games with increasing confidence, as they show off small world toys with pride.

Children enthusiastically choose what to do from a wide range of toys, games and craft materials available to them, whilst older children make active choices from a well-stocked playroom. Children are busily occupied and absorbed in their play as they squeeze and mould play dough into shapes. The childminder skilfully extends their thinking and introduces new language as she talks to them about colour, shapes and numbers, recognising the children's ages and abilities. Children use their imagination well as they act out roles using small world vehicles.

Children establish very good relationships with their childminder, as they play together and have fun. The childminder demonstrates a good knowledge of the children in her care as she supports them to try new skills and extend their learning through play activities. Children demonstrate good self-esteem as the childminder consistently uses praise and encouragement. The children happily recall outings, as the childminder talks about going newt fishing in the park.

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

The provision is good.

Children undertake fun activities and enjoy playing with a wide range of resources that promote their self-esteem. The childminder's effective planning of activities introduces them to the wider world and promotes a positive view of diversity. She encourages children to talk together and share their home experiences. Children confidently chatter about what they have done at home and outings they have enjoyed with the childminder.

Children's behaviour is good, as they are valued and respected. Consistent daily routines are agreed with parents to meet the children's individual needs. The childminder knows the children in her care well, recognising their abilities to plan activities that will support and extend them. She has a caring and sensitive approach that ensures children develop good behaviour and learn respect for each other. The childminder is in the process of producing a parent's booklet to include information about the service she provides and short policy statements.

Parents share and receive information verbally on a daily basis, as they have established good communication systems with the childminder. Secure relationships ensure a consistent approach to the care of the children. Children are happy, secure and confident as they decide what they will play with at the childminder's house.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy, relaxed and at home in a well organised and motivating environment. They are developing confidence to initiate and progress their own play. The childminder has started to produce a handbook for parents to include general information and policies to support her

work. She shares all information with parents effectively and maintains all required records in an organised manner. However, some of her documentation has not been fully updated to meet changes to procedures and new legislation and support her working practice. All children's records are confidential and securely stored. The childminder demonstrates a positive commitment to personal development.

Flexible planning and loosely structured routines allow children space to make choices, whilst helping them feel secure to plan their own time. The childminder supports and guides the children to extend their play. Creative use of all available play space effectively offers children a stimulating and fun environment. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

The recommendation from the previous inspection was to ensure poisonous plants are inaccessible to the children. All potentially poisonous plants have been removed from the garden and children play in a safe and secure environment.

### **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 complaint 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):

- develop an understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board recommendations
- continue to update documentation to support childminder practice.

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)