

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	300043
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 December 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Karen Cockings
<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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1992. She lives with her husband and three adult children in a village to the north of Sheffield. The house is within walking distance of local shops, schools and other amenities. The ground floor rooms of the house are used for childminding. The garden at the front of the house and the rear patio are available for outdoor play.

The family has a dog and a cat.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. She currently minds five pre-school children and four children of school age.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

The childminder has overlooked the importance of ensuring that full records are maintained and easily accessible about children and their health needs. She has not consistently maintained records about the administration of medication to children nor does she have written parental consents in place both for this and for seeking emergency treatment. This is a breach of regulatory requirements and means that children's welfare is compromised. However, the childminder has record keeping systems available. She uses them to record accidents that occur while children are in her care and she make sure that this record is shared with parents. She keeps first aid training up to date, which means that she is suitably equipped to deal with any accidents that may occur.

Children have opportunities for fresh air and exercise, which contributes to their overall good health. They play in the garden or go for walks with her in the surrounding area. They are cared for in a clean and comfortable family home, where good standards of hygiene are maintained. This helps to protect them from the spread of infection. The childminder ensures that they are not exposed to health risks associated with family pets and she talks to parents about her policy with regard to the care of sick children. Children are encouraged to wash their hands as part of daily hygiene routines.

Parents currently provide packed lunches for their children. The childminder finds out about dietary needs and allergies and discusses issues, such as weaning, with parents. Drinks are readily available for children and the childminder knows what cups children prefer to use and what they like to drink. For occasional snacks she offers fruit or a biscuit.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder takes appropriate measures to keep children safe, such as having a safety gate in place and covering exposed electricity sockets. She is aware of potential hazards around the home and makes sure that children are properly supervised. During outings they learn about safety issues including how to cross roads safely and to be wary of dogs they do not know. She uses reins where necessary with young children. Children are suitably protected from fire risks because the childminder has safety appliances, such as fire blanket and smoke detectors, in place and she keeps escape routes clear. She does not, however, formally practise evacuation procedures with children.

A varied range of toys and play materials is provided to support children's play and learning. The childminder brings boxes of toys in each day for children to choose from and she finds out what they like to do. She ensures that resources are safe and suitable by regularly checking and cleaning them.

The childminder has a satisfactory awareness of her responsibilities in relation to child protection. She has some guidance materials available but information about local procedures is not sufficiently up-to-date, which affects her ability to take prompt action if she has concerns.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a variety of play experiences both indoors and outside the setting. The childminder finds out about individual children's interests and provides a selection of toys for them each day. She sorts resources into boxes according to age group and type of toy, so that she can easily bring out a suitable selection for the children attending. She does not formally plan activities, but she knows, for example, which children like to play with the cars or building bricks and who likes to have stories read to them.

Once settled, children have a relaxed and comfortable relationship with the childminder, who speaks to them gently and makes efforts to engage them in play and conversation. They talk to her about what they have had for breakfast and where they go to nursery. She shows interest in what they have to say and comments positively on their achievements, which helps to build their confidence and self-esteem. She makes appropriate use of opportunities as children play, to promote children's learning. For example, she helps them to identify colours and shapes as they use building bricks and small world toys.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about their local community through outings and conversation about significant aspects of their lives. The childminder gets to know them and their families so that she is able to talk with the children about things that are important to them, such as the festivals and traditions they celebrate at home. This helps children to feel that they are valued. They have access to some toys and books that show positive images of different cultures and varying needs, which help to increase their understanding and appreciation of similarities and differences.

The childminder has a gentle and positive manner with children as she encourages them to take part in activities. She acknowledges children's achievements and is readily available if support is needed. She would discuss any challenging behaviour with parents in order to agree appropriate strategies, although she finds that the children generally get on well together. Through their play they learn about sharing and to consider the needs of others.

Information about the service is shared appropriately with parents, both verbally and in written form. The childminder has developed an introductory leaflet which provides information about important areas, such as the arrangements for meals and for collection of children. She also talks regularly to parents about daily routines and events but written parental consents are not clearly and consistently recorded. She encourages them to share any concerns with her and provides details of how they may contact Ofsted if necessary. She has a basic knowledge of current regulations with regard to the investigation and recording of complaints.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder does not organise paperwork sufficiently well to ensure that required records are consistently completed and accessible at all times. She has obtained materials from the National Childminding Association but has not yet begun to use them fully. As a result, some information about children's needs is not clearly recorded and all required written parental consents are not in place. The registration certificate is not always on display for parents and

the system for recording children's attendance does not clearly show times of arrival and departure. These are breaches of regulations which affect children's safety and well-being.

Space and resources are organised satisfactorily to provide children with a variety of play and learning experiences. Children develop independence as they move around the setting and make choices about their play. There is a reasonable balance of indoor and outdoor activity and the childminder plans her time so that she can give children the support they need.

Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to improve fire safety precautions by making sure that a fire blanket is suitably located in the kitchen. This is now in place so that she can act quickly to protect children from fire hazards.

Recommendations were also made about record keeping. In particular the childminder agreed to ensure that information is obtained from parents about contact details and to keep records easily accessible and available for inspection at all times. The childminder records some basic information about minded children including parents' emergency contact details. However, she does not consistently ensure that all significant information is recorded and paperwork is not organised sufficiently well so as to be easily accessible. This makes it difficult for her to find the information she needs about children and compromises their safety and well-being. Further actions have therefore been raised.

The childminder also agreed to provide children with an appropriate range of activities and resources to promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder has a range of books, dolls and play figures that reflect positive images of differences. She ensures that children have equal access to resources but does not purposefully plan activities to raise children's awareness of different cultures and varying needs.

In addition it was recommended that the childminder review her child protection policy to include procedures to follow if an allegation were to be made against herself or others. This is not formally recorded although she has a reasonable awareness of the action to take in such circumstances.

### **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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children and keep a written record of any medication administered
- ensure that all required written parental consents are in place and that full records are maintained about minded children and their daily attendance
- ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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)