

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	300203
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 December 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Susan Kathleen Wormald
<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 1994. She lives in Sheffield with her husband and son aged 11 years, within walking distance of local schools, shops and the park.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for five children on a part-time basis. Minded children have the use of all of the ground floor and two bedrooms upstairs. There is a garden suitable for outdoor play. The family has two guinea pigs.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Smarties childminder support group.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder provides a clean, warm home and follows effective hygiene routines to prevent the spread of infection. For example, she uses readily available

disposable wipes to clean children's hands and provides individual flannels for each child. Children learn about personal hygiene and good practice through daily routines and the support and guidance of the childminder. Younger children's needs for rest and sleep is well provided for with clear routines for naps and rest. The childminder finds out about children's individual needs, such as eating and sleeping routines and dietary requirements, by consulting parents.

Children enjoy a broad range of stimulating opportunities that promote their enjoyment of physical activity and the outdoor environment. This contributes to keeping them fit and well and ensures they make good progress in their physical development. Young children have everyday opportunities to develop confidence and control of their bodies and to practise and develop physical skills. Children go out most days and walk regularly in all weathers. They use a variety of local parks where they have picnics and meet other minded children and have access to an attractive garden area where they can use a range of resources including climbing frames and a slide.

Children's understanding and awareness of healthy eating is promoted by a nutritious and balanced diet and meals are freshly prepared using fresh fruit and vegetables. Mealtimes are relaxed social occasions with children sitting together around the table, being encouraged to feed themselves and chatting with the childminder.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in safe, secure, comfortable and welcoming surroundings. The childminder is aware of potential hazards and takes steps to reduce these both in the home and outdoors. This enables children to move around freely and confidently while being protected from harm. Clear written procedures are in place regarding emergency evacuation and the childminder ensures that all the children she cares for have an opportunity to rehearse these. Children learn to keep themselves safe as the childminder helps them to understand danger and understand safe practice. For example, they follow road safety procedures when out walking and wrist straps and reins are used if necessary.

Children enjoy the use of a broad range of good quality resources and equipment that are appropriate for their age and stage of development. These are well organised, readily and safely accessible and support a wide variety of experiences enabling children to make choices about their play. Young children select books themselves and ask to be read a story.

Children's welfare is safeguarded effectively because the childminder has a secure understanding of how to protect children and recognises that this is her first priority. She has attended additional training to update her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and is clear and confident about procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They are comfortable and at ease in the setting as the childminder recognises that they benefit from a predictable, calm environment with regular routines and familiar resources. Children share a warm and friendly relationship with the childminder. She gives cuddles and reassurance, maintaining a friendly dialogue as they play together. This contributes to their sense of security and belonging. They communicate with each other well and enjoy each other's company. They sit together on the floor and children

listen attentively as she reads them a story. Children know the childminder is interested in what they do and say because she listens, asks questions and becomes actively involved in their play. Her attention, support and encouragement promote their self-esteem and confidence.

Children enjoy a wide variety of interesting activities and play experiences which support and challenge their development. The childminder's good understanding of how children progress and how best to support this promotes their learning. Toddlers' early communication skills are well supported as the childminder encourages them to communicate in their own way. She spends her time playing and talking to children and explaining what she is doing as she changes nappies and settles them down for a nap. The childminder makes learning fun and uses play opportunities effectively to help them move forward. Children are absorbed in decorating a paper Christmas tree, expertly using the glue spreader and very carefully selecting and placing their stickers. They concentrate well. Children benefit from a range of interesting and pleasurable experiences outside the setting. They have trips on the train and visit butterfly and sculpture parks and museums.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met well as the childminder takes time to get to know the children, is sensitive to their particular needs and works in close partnership with parents. Children are comfortable and at ease in the predictable environment where they understand familiar routines and know where to find favourite playthings. The childminder finds out what is important to them and uses this information to increase their confidence and sense of well-being. Children learn to feel good about themselves as they are given praise and attention. Their thoughts, contributions and creations are valued. Children's understanding and awareness of diversity and cultural differences is promoted through discussion and the use of resources, such as books which help them learn about the world they live in.

Children are learning to manage their own behaviour and to negotiate and resolve potential conflicts as they follow the good example of the childminder in showing courtesy and consideration for others. The childminder gives clear explanations to help them understand boundaries and expectations. Children are encouraged to think about how they should behave and what they should expect from others. The childminder reads a story about a grown up who is rude and has bad manners. This helps children to understand how their behaviour affects other people and its consequences.

The childminder works in close association with parents and keeps them well informed about their children and their progress. She makes time to talk with parents and shares photographs and children's work, so that they are involved in their children's experiences. She maintains strong links with families and a number of children have had siblings placed previously. This contributes to children's well-being and helps ensure they are settled and secure. She talks to parents about her childcare practice and has some helpful written information available.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are secure and well cared for because the childminder organises her home and time effectively to support children's welfare, play and learning. She plans the day to make sure she has time to meet the demands of children of different ages and give them all some individual attention. Children are offered a range of suitable and interesting activities both inside and

outdoors which help them progress and develop. These include times to be active and times to rest and relax. The childminder makes good use of local facilities, such as the library and parent and toddler groups and plans regular trips and outings which are varied and entertaining. These broaden children's experiences and give them opportunities to make friends and socialise.

All required records and documents which contribute to children's health, safety and welfare are in place, are maintained clearly and accurately, and are easily accessible. The childminder demonstrates a positive commitment towards her own personal development and has improved her knowledge by attending relevant training. She keeps up to date with current childcare practice, for example, she recently attended training regarding the Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder shares information daily with parents about children's activities and care needs, ensuring consistency and continuity of care. A number of written policies, which she makes available to parents, support the childminder's practice, however, her child protection policy has not been updated to reflect some recent changes. 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 consider putting her emergency evacuation procedure into writing and to develop the use of photographic evidence to support her practice. She now has a clear written emergency evacuation procedure and a photographic album displaying examples of children's experiences and activities while in her care.

### **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):

- review and update the child protection policy to reflect current guidance.

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)