

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	300483
<b>Inspection date</b>	07 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Yvonne Victoria Facey

<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 1997. She lives with her husband and two children aged 15 and 11 years in Sheffield. The local school is close by, as are the local shops, and public transport can be easily accessed. Children have access to the ground floor of the premises with access to the toilet facilities on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is currently registered to care for a maximum of five children and there are currently five children on roll. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Sheffield Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where the childminder effectively promotes good hygiene practices, such as by having regular routines for cleaning the home, toys and equipment. This prevents the risk of cross infection. Children are familiar with personal hygiene as the childminder reminds them to wash their hands before they have their meals and after using the toilet and potty. They learn the importance of keeping themselves healthy and well through

discussions, such as the importance of brushing their teeth. Children's individual routines, such as rest and sleep are followed effectively because the childminder ensures she discusses their needs with parents. The parents are also made aware of the sickness policy which contributes towards preventing the spread of infectious illnesses. Children's health needs are well promoted in the event of an emergency as the childminder has completed first aid training. There are clear accident and medication records that are signed by parents.

Meals are provided by the childminder which are well balanced and healthy. Children enjoy a variety of meals that include fresh fruit and vegetables. A sample menu is shared with parents at the start of the placement and they discuss with the childminder what their children's dietary needs are.

The childminder provides children with lots of opportunities to have access to physical play each day which is enjoyable. They have access to a wide range of large play equipment, such as swings, climbing frame and slide through frequent visits to local parks and playgroup. As a result, they enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. Good levels of safety equipment are in place, such as secured fireguards and safety gates to prevent access to the stairs and kitchen. Risk assessments are conducted to ensure that children are safe in the home and on outings and trips. The childminder ensures that children are well supervised and there are clear procedures in place if a child gets lost and for safe collection. Children choose from readily accessible toys and equipment which enables them to make their own decisions about their play and follow their own interests in a safe environment.

The children have a good understanding of keeping themselves safe through discussions and safe practices encouraged by the childminder. For instance, they are learning good road safety while walking to and from school and during planned activities. There is a clear evacuation procedure which is practised with the children on a regular basis and the childminder ensures that new children are involved in the practice as soon as possible. The childminder has a good understanding of her responsibilities within child protection procedures. Clear records of existing injuries are maintained, and a safeguarding children policy is shared with parents. She has completed safeguarding training to ensure she is up to date with current procedures to ensure that children's welfare is fully promoted.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, secure and well settled in the childminder's home. There are effective daily routines in place, which help children to feel secure and at ease in their surroundings. Children enjoy interesting activities using a wide range of resources, which support their development. Good opportunities allow children to explore the environment with interest, building on their natural curiosity. For example, they look in the pond for frogs, newts and dragonflies. They concentrate and use their imagination well. They learn new skills as they play and the childminder supports their learning well. For instance, she introduces counting, colours and shapes during the activities children engage in. Children's language is developed well as they learn new words, such as leek, aubergine and lettuce as they play in the home corner. Children are learning to cooperate and interact with each other. They sit as a group and listen

to their favourite story 'Dear zoo' and join in action rhymes. They have fun as they play together and are caring towards each other, showing respect and an understanding of each other's needs. For example, they say 'night night' to the youngest child as the childminder puts her down for her nap and they are careful not to wake her as they play and she sleeps on the sofa.

The childminder effectively provides activities considering children's abilities and interests to ensure activities are suitably challenging. They are encouraged to access resources themselves, so developing their independence and self-confidence. Children have positive relationships with the childminder, whose warm and caring approach to the children's individual needs makes them feel secure.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their individual needs and daily routines are followed and discussed thoroughly with their parents during the effective settling-in process. Children develop an awareness of other cultures through planned activities and regular access to resources reflecting positive images of diversity within the play provision. The childminder works successfully in partnership with parents to meet the needs of all the children. Information is shared verbally at the beginning and end of each day. The childminder keeps a daily record book, which is given to parents at the end of each week. This informs parents of the activities their children have been engaged in and their achievements. As a result, parents are well informed of their child's daily activities and progress. Parents are invited to share their comments on the provision through feedback forms provided by the childminder. The childminder uses these comments to improve the service she provides to children and their families. Written policies and procedures are shared with parents at the beginning of the placement to ensure they are informed of the service provided. However, the complaints policy has not been updated to include current regulations.

Children benefit from the childminder's clear understanding of their age and stage of development when dealing with behaviour. She knows the children well and responds to their individual needs at relevant times. This helps children to begin to understand their own needs and the needs of others. For example, the childminder is aware that one of the children's sleep routines is changing and he likes to sit alone and read a book away from the other children when he is tired. Children behave very well and the childminder gives children consistent messages and helps them learn to share as they play.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are settled in the warm and relaxed environment. The space is well organised to maximise the play area and allow children to safely select their own resources. The childminder shares information with parents and maintains all records in an organised manner and confidentiality is maintained at all times. The childminder plans her time effectively to provide children with access to a range of fun and challenging activities both inside and outside the home. Activities are effectively organised to ensure children are kept occupied and interested during the day. The childminder is very committed to training to continue to enhance the service she offers. For example, she has completed first aid and child protection training and has observation and assessment training planned for the future.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

At the previous inspection it was recommended that the childminder continue to develop her childcare practice. The childminder has appropriately completed this by completing a number of training courses which keeps her up to date with current childcare practices.

### **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):

- update complaints policy to include new requirements.

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)