

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 321402 |
| Inspection date | 12 March 2008 |
| Inspector | Katy Elizabeth Wynn |

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| Type of inspection | Childcare |
| Type of care | 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.

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 satisfactory. 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 2000. She lives with her husband and two children aged 12 years and nine years. Their home is located in the Clifton area of York City. She lives within easy walking distance of the primary school, shops and other local amenities. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and consists of a lounge, dining room and kitchen. Toilet facilities are on the first floor. Family pets include a dog, two cats, rabbit, hamster and a baby African snail. The childminder has 11 children on roll.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is supported as they are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet, playing with the animals and before meals. Children are beginning to understand the reasons behind the hygiene procedures they follow. They use individual towels which help to protect them from the spread of infection. Accident and medication recording is in place. However, the childminder's first aid certificate has now expired and although she demonstrates a sound

knowledge of how to treat minor accidents, her knowledge of first aid practice is not current, therefore children's health and safety is compromised.

Children enjoy regular opportunities for physical play and fresh air in local play parks and walk daily to the local schools helping them to remain fit and healthy. Drinking water is available throughout the day so children are well hydrated. Children benefit from a healthy diet because the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of healthy eating. She has devised a written menu which is nutritionally balanced and takes into account the dietary needs of children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for indoors in a safe and secure environment, however, the garden is currently not safe and children would not be suitably safeguarded if this area was in use. Children are aware of the emergency evacuation procedure because the childminder has discussed this with them and regularly practises this procedure. They are therefore familiar with how to leave the building quickly and safely.

There are secure systems in place to record children's attendance and the times they arrive and leave. Children are well supervised and gently reminded about keeping themselves safe. Children are reminded about road safety on the walk from school in the afternoon. Equipment is checked and safe for use. Most toys are stored in low-level storage so children can choose in safety.

Children are protected from harm and neglect as the childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. She recognises signs and symptoms and understands the procedures to follow to ensure children are safeguarded. The childminder has also devised a child protection policy that is shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with a suitable range of activities and resources throughout the day to keep them happy and occupied. The children enjoy role play as they play with the dolls and accessories, caring for the dolls as they change the nappy and dress them. Older children enjoy relaxing at the childminder's house when they return from school. They enjoy creative activities and board games. Interaction is good and the childminder talks to the children about what they are doing and responds with interest and enthusiasm. This promotes children's vocabulary and language development.

Children have regular opportunities to visit local play parks and soft play areas. The childminder plans her day around the school runs and ensures the children are experiencing activities covering all areas of play. She makes good use of the toy bus ensuring children have a variety of toys and resources to capture their interest.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

A short induction period including visits with parents and carers enables children to settle into the new environment. This is tailored to meet their individual needs. Children feel a sense of belonging due to the childminder's friendly and approachable disposition. Her positive approach to equal opportunities contributes to children's acceptable attitudes to the wider community.

This is complemented with access to a small selection of resources, including dolls, small world and books. The childminder has experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She demonstrates a positive attitude to providing an inclusive environment.

The childminder uses a positive and consistent approach to managing behaviour, which takes into account children's understanding and maturity. They are learning to share and take turns through her appropriate support. Children are encouraged to consider the consequences of their words and actions for themselves and others. Good relationships with parents and carers are beneficial to the continuity of care that the children receive. Information is shared with parents and carers verbally on a daily basis. Consequently, they are aware of activities participated in and meals eaten.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children access play opportunities through the appropriate organisation of space, time and resources. The use of the living room, dining room and kitchen enables children to play alone or with others. They can also be involved in quiet or more boisterous activities. Appropriate management of time gives children the opportunity to participate in a variety of experiences both indoors and out. Toys and resources are organised so that children can independently select what they would like to play with. This promotes free choice and children's self-help skills.

Children benefit from the knowledge gained by the childminder completing the initial training classes. This is complemented by her sound understanding of the National Standards. The childminder has devised a good selection of policies and procedures that are shared with parents. Relevant documentation is well organised and stored suitably to maintain confidentiality.

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 required to obtain written permission to seek emergency treatment. Following this the childminder has devised permission slips to obtain this information. The childminder has also included this on the contracts to ensure parents' wishes are respected.

Also at the last inspection the childminder was required to attend an up to date first aid course. Following this the childminder attended a course. However, this ran out in December 2007 and she does not currently hold an up to date first aid certificate.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- complete a first aid course which includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- improve safety in garden area.

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