

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	321343
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Rosemary Beyer

<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 1998. She lives with her family in a three bed roomed semi detached house in Strensall, situated on the outskirts of York. Local amenities are all within walking distance of the house. The conservatory and playroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

There are eight children currently on the roll. They attend for a variety of sessions including before and after school and holiday care. During term time the childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. She also attends local childcare groups.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for on clean and well maintained premises, with good hygiene practice in place and consistently implemented. They learn the importance of personal hygiene through

routines such as effective hand washing after the toilet and before snacks. The childminder is vigilant in ensuring they do not forget.

Parents provide most of the food, but children are encouraged to eat the healthy snacks provided by the childminder. They all enjoy fruit. Drinks are readily available and the children learn to drink regularly. Their dietary needs are discussed with parents whose wishes are respected. The childminder prepares a well balanced cooked meal in the evening for those children needing one.

Appropriate procedures and documentation ensure the children are protected from the spread of infection. Medication and accident recording is acknowledged in writing by parents afterwards. The childminder has a current first aid certificate and a well stocked first aid box readily available. Parents give the childminder written permission to seek medical help or advice in an emergency should they need urgent care.

Children have fresh air each day, and develop their physical skills through a wide range of outside activities. They enjoy the garden and the local parks, and walking to and from school. During the school holidays they have trips to activity centres and country houses with gardens. There are suitable arrangements for rest and sleep according to the children's individual needs.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for and well protected in a secure, welcoming and safe home. They learn to cross the road safely on their walks to and from school each day.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child protection and understands her role in the referral process. She has not however included notification of Ofsted in her written safeguarding children policy, although she knows this is necessary.

Children move around safely, putting things away if they have finished to prevent accidents. They develop a good awareness of safety measures through practising and discussing emergency evacuation drills. The childminder and older children are vigilant in preventing the younger ones from swallowing small objects.

The available space is well used in both the house and garden, with easy access to a wide range of toys and equipment, which helps to develop children's learning and independence. Children use the large trampoline which is in the garden, however the insurer has not been notified it is available.

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

The provision is good.

The children show interest and happily take part in a wide range of good quality activities. They are confident in the setting, help themselves to resources and interact very positively with the childminder and their peers, creating a comfortable happy environment. Older children are very supportive of younger ones, helping them with games such as puzzles if they have difficulties.

The children express themselves well and through a wide variety of learning experiences are developing their vocabulary, imagination and social skills. The older children enjoy being able to make suggestions for activities, such as visits and trips to special places and activity parks.

Their imaginative art work is displayed on the wall in the play room and photographs show them participating in a wide range of activities. During their time with the childminder they have made pizza and bread, celebrated Chinese New Year and also participated in charity events for those less fortunate than themselves as well as using a wide range of toys and craft resources.

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

The provision is good.

The children are settled, confident and comfortable with the childminder. They learn social skills and enjoy the company of the adults and other children. Their understanding of the wider world is developing well, through their use of the wide range of resources and activities provided. They are able to choose and make decisions about the day and activities they will enjoy. The school-age children help to plan the programme for the school holidays, including the day-long trips out.

Children behave very well. The childminder uses a positive encouraging approach to behaviour, taking into account the children's level of understanding. The older children have developed the House Behaviour Requests, and practise what they have agreed which gives younger children good role models. The behaviour policy and the children's requests are discussed and made available to parents.

Partnership with parents and carers is fostered through good communication and through the policies and procedures that are used. Each child is treated as an individual and account taken of parents' wishes when minding takes place. Daily diaries are completed for parents of younger children, including information about nappies, sleep, food and activities, and parents of older children always have verbal feedback. Both parents and children complete annual questionnaires which enable the childminder to gauge their satisfaction with the service she provides, all are very positive, with her care valued and appreciated.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are comfortable and at home in the well organised setting. The childminder attends training courses to update her knowledge on childcare issues and ensures her first aid certificate is regularly renewed. She has obtained a National Vocational Qualification in childcare at Level 3, has attended the Basic Food Hygiene course and has also done health and safety training. She has gone through the relevant vetting procedure which ensures the children receive appropriate care.

The childminder's documents are maintained and stored appropriately to protect confidentiality. Comprehensive records are available for inspection and are shared with parents to keep them informed of their child's care and routines. The policy and procedure file is available for parents as is the childminder's training record. Her registration certificate and the complaints procedure are on display.

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 agreed to obtain signatures from parents to acknowledge the administration of medication to their children. This has now been addressed and the practice contributes to positive outcomes for children

The childminder was asked to develop her practice to promote children's awareness of diversity. The childminder has continued to obtain resources to develop knowledge and learning. Children celebrate different cultural festivals, enjoy dressing up in the different costumes available and they try different foods. A good selection of books is available to ensure the information used is correct and to provide suggestions for activities.

The childminder also agreed to develop practice around fire safety. Children are now developing a good sense of keeping themselves safe through the regular monthly fire evacuation drills, which are recorded and monitored to ensure all the children have experience. They discuss safety whenever the smoke alarms goes off, and understand follow the procedure immediately.

### **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 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):

- include the Ofsted contact details in the child protection procedure
- notify the insurer children use a large trampoline in the garden.

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)