

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	302674
<b>Inspection date</b>	27 February 2008
<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 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 1999. She lives with her husband and two daughters in a village on the outskirts of Barnsley. The house is within walking distance of local schools, parks and other amenities. The ground floor rooms of the house are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

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

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have regular opportunities for fresh air and exercise, which helps them to stay fit and well. They tend to make the journey from school on foot and like to play in the garden on the swings and trampoline. They also organise gymnastic performances, setting out chairs for the adults to watch their shows. There is limited time after school for outings as children are collected at different times.

The childminder serves a snack tea for the children, which may consist of sandwiches with a choice of fillings, or hot foods, such as jacket potatoes or beans on toast. She also offers fresh and canned fruit. Occasionally children have sweets but they know that they have to eat their main course first. Children are able to make choices about the foods they have although they tend not to help with food preparation. The childminder is aware of the importance of finding out about any allergies or special dietary requirements.

Children are cared for in a clean and comfortable home, where the childminder maintains good standards of hygiene. They are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet, although not always before eating. Toilet facilities are easily accessible from the areas where children play. The childminder protects children from the spread of infection by talking to parents about the need to keep them at home if they are ill. She has a book for the recording of accidents although there have been none for some considerable time.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder gives priority to children's safety and takes measures appropriate to the age and understanding of the children she is minding. For example, she has a safety gate in place if caring for younger children but does not use it currently as the children are all of school age. The environment is secure and welcoming, with space for children to move around and to feel relaxed after a busy day in school. They have access to a suitable range of toys and play materials, such as board games and craft materials, and they sometimes bring electronic toys with them to share with their friends. The childminder ensures that all equipment is safe and suitable for them to use.

Children's awareness of safety issues is raised as they play and as part of daily routines. For example, the childminder gives gentle reminders about sitting properly on their stools so that they do not fall off. Children know about the safety rules for use of the trampoline, such as only one at a time and not sitting on the edge of it where they might trap their fingers in the springs. There are appropriate fire safety appliances in place and the childminder ensures that exits are clear, but she does not formally practise evacuation procedures with children. During outings and walks to school, children learn how to cross roads safely by stopping, looking and listening for traffic and holding the hands of the younger ones.

The childminder understands her responsibilities with regard to child protection. She has attended recent training to update her knowledge and is able to seek advice appropriately if she has any concerns. However, she does not have guidance materials about local procedures readily available.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, settled and relaxed in the childminder's care. They are eager to describe what they do when they are with her and are polite and friendly as they chat about their experiences. Children like to draw pictures, play board games together or enjoy active play in the garden. They use their imaginations as they make up stories and there is lots of shared laughter as they recall a story they wrote about the childminder. She is good humoured about this and the children make very positive comments about her. For example, they say that 'she makes us laugh a lot'. She gathers suitable materials together to occupy them, such as collections of word searches and quizzes for them to do.

Children build positive relationships with each other and with the childminder. They clearly enjoy each other's company and older children watch out for the younger ones. For example, they help to keep them safe on the way to school. The childminder has made scrapbooks in the past for pre-school children, with collections of photographs, showing children involved in activities and recording their development.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel a sense of belonging at the setting, where they are comfortable, relaxed and know that they are valued. The childminder gets to know them well and talks with them about their home and families. She displays some of their pictures on the wall and shows interest in what they have been doing at school. There are limited resources available that reflect positive images of different cultures and varying needs within the wider society. However, the childminder talks with children about related topics that they have been covering in school and they discuss issues together. She recognises the importance of working closely with parents where children have additional needs.

Children's behaviour is good. They understand the childminder's simple house rules, speaking of them as her 'mottos'. For example, they know that if they get toys out they have to put them away when they have finished with them. They do not always agree, for example, about what programmes they want to watch, but they find ways of resolving their difficulties and generally have lots of fun together.

The childminder's relationships with parents are friendly and positive. She ensures that written agreements are drawn up with them about their children's care, although some parental consents are not clearly recorded, such as permission for seeking emergency treatment and for transporting children in her own car. However, the childminder always lets parents know about any planned outings. She has a basic knowledge of requirements regarding the investigation and recording of complaints and encourages parents to share any concerns with her.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and at ease in the homely environment. There is sufficient space for them to play freely, both indoors and outside and they have access to suitable resources. The childminder provides good levels of supervision and understands her responsibilities. She ensures that required training is completed.

Basic systems of record keeping are in place although some parental consents have been overlooked. The childminder tends to talk through her policies with parents, rather than sharing any written information about her service. She shows new parents her registration certificate but does not have it clearly on display when childminding.

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 written permission before administering medication to children and to keep a record, signed by parents, of medicines given. She has not been asked to administer any medication for some time, but she now includes a relevant

statement on the contract which parents are asked to sign. She states that she would keep a record of any medication given and would share this with parents. This helps to ensure that agreements with parents are clearly recorded and safeguards children's welfare.

The childminder also agreed to review her child protection policy to include procedures if allegations were made against herself or others. Although she does not have a written policy, she is aware of her responsibilities and says she would inform the relevant authorities if an allegation were to be made against her. This ensures that children are properly protected and appropriate procedures followed.

In addition, it was recommended that the childminder provide a range of activities and resources to promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. She encourages children to make choices about their play and to follow up topics covered in school about different cultures and festivals. However, resources that reflect positive images of diversity remain limited.

### **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):

- review paperwork to ensure that information about local child protection procedures is readily available
- increase the range of resources and activities to promote children's awareness of diversity
- develop knowledge and understanding of requirements with regard to the investigation and recording of complaints
- review record keeping to ensure that written parental consents for transporting children by car and for seeking emergency treatment are in place
- ensure that the registration certificate is on display for parents.

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)