

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	303676
<b>Inspection date</b>	31 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Alexandra Cole
<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 1996, she works with a co-childminder. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children when working alone or 10 children when working with her co-minder. There are currently 10 children on roll that attend for a variety of sessions. She lives with her husband in Holywell Green, near Halifax. There are shops, a school and a playground nearby.

The whole of the ground floor and a first floor bathroom of the property are used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family has a pet cat. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and receives support from the local authority.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn about good health and hygiene through daily routines. For example, before having a snack the childminder wipes children's

hands. Individual named towels are provided which helps to prevent the spread of infection. The childminder provides a good example through following strict hygiene procedures. For example, as she washes grapes before giving them to the children as a snack. Effective systems are in place to ensure pets do not pose a health risk to children.

Children are able to move freely within the home and they have a close relationship with the childminder who is caring and responsive to them. This helps them to feel confident to explore their surroundings and use their bodies to develop physical skills. Arrangements for first aid and administering medication meet requirements and all of the procedures are followed correctly. Children enjoy a wide range of activities that contribute to their good health. For example, the childminder takes children to a local field on a regular basis where they can run around and throw and catch the balls.

Children are well nourished because the childminder takes into account the wishes of parents to provide nutritious meals and snack that meet their dietary needs. For example, all meals are home cooked and fresh fruit is provided on a daily basis. The childminder has been awarded the 'Cute Fruit Plus' award in recognition of providing a healthy diet for the children. In light of knowledge gained whilst undertaking the award the childminder reviewed the arrangements for children to have a drink. Children now benefit from drinking only water or milk and a jug of water is readily accessible to children at all times, ensuring they remain continuously hydrated.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment with a dedicated area in the lounge displaying the current play theme and containing examples of children's work. This contributes towards a child's sense of belonging. The childminder maintains her home in a good state of repair and decoration, and the layout of the furniture provides children with space so that they can play freely. Children are able to self-select from a sound range of toys and equipment that the childminder rotates on a regular basis. She ensures they conform to safety standards and checks and cleans them on a regular basis to ensure children are not exposed to hazards.

Risk of accidental injury is minimised by the childminder's appropriate practices and use of safety measures around the home. For example, children are well supervised and are always within her sight or hearing. A fire guard is in place and a safety gate prevents children having unsupervised access to the kitchen. Additionally, soft safety matting has been laid in the outdoor area in order to minimise injuries if children fall over. The childminder is proactive in helping children to learn how to keep themselves safe. For example, as she supports children as they climb down from the settee and reminds them to 'be careful'.

Fire safety precautions such as, smoke alarms, a fire blanket and a fire evacuation procedure are in place. The fire evacuation procedure is practised with the children to ensure they understand the course of action to take in an emergency. However, the procedures for completing the attendance record are not followed correctly. Children are well protected because the childminder understands her role in child protection and is able to put relevant procedures into practice.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's house, they are confident and fully involved in their play. Warm and caring relationships are apparent between the childminder and children; contributing towards their sense of belonging. The childminder responds to children's interests well and gives them help and support when necessary. For example, as she supports children in undoing the zip of a toy. Children play happily with the childminder, for example, as they thoroughly enjoy her singing a song to them as they pretend a box is their boat.

Children become independent as they are able to self-select from the sound range of toys and resources, suitable to their age and stage of development. Encouraging their independence and promoting their decision making skills. Children are able to develop their creativity through activities such as baking, making handprints and sticking activities. The childminder ensures all children are included and has adapted a mask making activity so that children of all ages and abilities are able to join in.

The childminder effectively responds to children's interests in order to promote their development. For example, she extends children's learning through developing their interests of using the bricks to build tins of food through creating a role play shop. Complete with real tins of food and make believe money where children are able to develop their mathematical skills. Children are involved, interested and enjoy their play, for example, as they spend a long period of time pretending to iron toy clothing.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their individual needs are met well and the childminder knows the children in her care well and adapts appropriately to their differing needs. She provides a suitable range of activities to promote a positive view of the wider world in order to increase children's understanding of diversity. For example, festivals such as Eid have been celebrated and children have access to a range of books and resources that reflect diversity.

The childminder is able to use sound strategies to manage children's behaviour, such as distraction and redirection to other activities. Clear and consistent boundaries encourage children to understand right from wrong, encouraging them to be responsible and play together harmoniously. Good behaviour is reinforced through praise and encouragement, building on children's self-esteem.

Partnerships with parents are positive. The childminder respects parents' wishes and keeps them informed by giving them detailed information about her service. Children settle well because the childminder works closely with parents to gather information about their child's individual care needs. Parents are kept up to date with their child's progress through the use of a daily diary as well as daily informal discussion. This ensures that there is regular information sharing with parents and promotes continuity of care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

All of the documentation required for the safe and effective management of children is in place and appropriate. Policies and procedures are used effectively and are well organised. The childminder has completed all of the necessary background checks to ensure all adults living or working at the premises are suitable to be around young children. The childminder works well with her co-minder and they both equally share responsibility for the care and welfare of the children.

The space and resources are organised well to enable children to participate in a good range of activities. The childminder is proactive in pursuing further training that enhances her childcare knowledge. The required adult to child ratios are met and provide good levels of care and support. In response, children are secure and confident in their surroundings. 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 improve children's safety with regard to smoke alarms and hazards in the bathroom and garden. It was recommended that she improved her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, amend the system for recording when children are in the sole care of one childminder and to record emergency escape practises.

Good progress has been made and safety hazards in the bathroom and garden have been minimised and the childminder has updated her knowledge of child protection through attending appropriate training. Fire evacuation practises are now recorded and a smoke alarm is now fitted on the first floor. Currently children are not left in the sole care of one childminder but appropriate systems are in place to clearly record any instances of this occurring.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- follow the procedures for completing the attendance record correctly.

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)