

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	321235
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 December 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Linda Filewood
<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 was registered in 1994. She lives with her family in Dringhouses on the outskirts of the City of York. The playroom and dining kitchen on the ground floor and bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding six children on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends the local toddler group. The family has a rabbit.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's understanding of a healthy lifestyle. They are offered a variety of snacks, such as fruit and pita bread during the day and after school, and are encouraged to try new foods. Parents provide the lunch time meal and the childminder discusses

this and any dietary requirements with them. Meals are not rushed, children sit around a table to eat and learn to socialise together. Drinks of diluted juice or water are available to the children all day and they use individual drinking bottles.

Hygiene procedures are implemented satisfactorily by the childminder so that children play in a clean environment. They wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. However, as all the children use only one towel, the risk of cross contamination is not always fully considered. Satisfactory arrangements are in place to care for children who are ill. Parents are made aware of the childminder's sickness policy and, to protect others, do not bring the children if they are ill. The children's safety is suitably considered as written parental permission to administer medication is always sought and parents are clearly informed of any accidents the children have had.

The children enjoy physical exercise and fresh air during their daily walks to and from school. They take trips to the local parks and these are extended well to include nature walks when they collect, for instance, pine cones to use when they get home in a craft activity. An enclosed outdoor play area allows children the opportunity to enjoy garden games. There is a good variety of equipment, such as wheeled vehicles and a play house. Periods of rest, as well as activity, are planned into the children's day. The childminder recognises signs of tiredness in young children and follows their home routines and sleep patterns satisfactorily.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder ensures that children play safely. She checks the rooms used for minding each morning and has some written risk assessments in place. The children practise the fire evacuation procedure so that they are aware of what to do in the event of an evacuation. This is well logged and a written procedure displayed. Children are safe on outings as young children are securely strapped into the pushchair and older children are reminded that they must stay in the childminder's sight at all times. They are collected safely from school and know where the designated meeting point is. The childminder only uses the car when a few children are being minded and she makes sure they travel safely using appropriate seat restraints. However, written permission has not been obtained from parents to take children on outings or transport them in a vehicle.

The childminder uses the space within her home well. Children have safe and easy access to appropriate areas for rest, play and meals which meet their individual needs. Their safety is well considered as they are well supervised at all times, especially when sleeping. A good range of resources, which are clean and suitably maintained, are within easy reach of the children and are stored in child height units. This supports the children's increasing independence and confidence. The childminder makes good use of the toy bus and communal toys bought by the childminding group to extend her range of equipment and toys. She carefully monitors older children's toys that have small pieces to make sure they are used safely and cannot be reached by younger children.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and has attended further advanced training to update her knowledge. Her home is secure and good arrangements are in place to offer parents emergency or holiday cover with childminders who their children know and are comfortable with. Effective systems are in place for the safe collection of children and parents are advised of the procedures for lost or uncollected children.

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

The provision is good.

The children are offered a wide range of resources and activities which are skilfully organised to enable them to make their own choices. In addition the childminder plans a varied range of outings to suit the individual needs of the children. For instance, younger children learn to play with others at toddler and childminding groups and good use is made of activities run by the local authority during the school holidays for older children. The childminder changes her resources regularly maintaining children's interests, offering them stimulation and enabling them to learn through play. She has a good understanding of providing all children with activities and play opportunities that encourage their overall development. For instance, young children with newly acquired walking skills are encouraged to try in a safe and supportive environment. Children often enjoy planned group activities such as nature walks and craft activities, proudly displaying the picture afterwards on the playroom wall.

Relationships between the childminder and children are warm and caring. She offers them choices in their play and encourages them to be independent. Children respond well to her and confidently go to her for help, for example, in putting dolls clothes on, and young children enjoy a cuddle when they have just woken up. The childminder actively stimulates language development well as she talks and interacts easily with the children during play. She incorporates many opportunities to talk about colours and counting though everyday play, for instance, through singing familiar songs.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder recognises that children have differing individual needs and works closely with parents to obtain sufficient information so that these needs are met. This gives parents confidence that their children are being well cared for and helps children settle easily with the childminder. Resources to support the children's understanding of diversity are used well. The childminder answers all children's questions giving age appropriate explanations and often using a large world map to talk about different areas of the world where children go on holiday or to show where their food comes from. Children enjoy learning about their local environment as they take part in nature walks, sometimes using laminated sheets of items to find and look out for during the walk.

Age appropriate behaviour management is well understood and good behaviour, such as sharing, is praised and encouraged. The childminder shares her behaviour policy with parents so that methods are used consistently. She is a good role model and gives clear support to the children as they begin to learn right from wrong.

There is a good partnership with parents in place as the childminder respects parents' wishes and regularly exchanges information with them to provide the children with continuity of care. A comprehensive file of general information, as well as written policies and procedures for many of the standards, is shared with parents. However, although a written complaints policy is in place, it does not contain the up to date contact details for Ofsted or the timescale for resolving complaints. New parents are offered a flexible settling in period for their children and parents of young children receive a daily diary of their child's activities, feeds and sleep.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The organisation of space and resources is good creating a warm welcoming environment for children. Toys and equipment are readily accessible for them to choose and use independently supporting their confidence and self-esteem. Additional activities are well planned into the children's day. For instance, older children enjoy meeting up with their friends who go to other childminder's during the school holidays, and parents are offered good cover when the childminder is not working. The childminder has maintained her first aid qualification and undertaken a very wide range of other courses and qualifications. This shows good commitment to ongoing professional development and ensures that she is constantly enhancing the service she offers to children and families. The childminder makes good use of the occasional services of an assistant and makes parents fully aware of this.

There is a good range of written policies, procedures and risk assessments in place. These are clear and consistently implemented, giving good support to the children's welfare, care and safety. All records, registers and most written parental permissions are in place. These are appropriately and confidentially maintained contributing satisfactorily to the efficiency of the childminding practice. 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 resources which positively reflect race, culture, gender and disability. This recommendation has been met and children are given good support in their understanding and awareness of similarities and differences.

## **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):

- ensure good hygiene practices are put in place regarding hand drying

- ensure there is a system in place to obtain written permission from parents to take children on outings and to transport them in a vehicle
- make parents aware of the correct contact details for Ofsted and the timescale for resolving complaints.

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)