

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	401158
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Vivienne Dempsey

<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 1995. She lives with her husband and two children aged 17 and 18 years in a semi-detached house in a residential area of Selby. The children have free access to most areas of the house including a lounge, dining area, kitchen, two first floor bedrooms and bathroom. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play.

There are currently six children on roll, aged eight years and under, cared for on a full and part-time basis.

The family has one rabbit and goldfish.

The childminder supports children with special educational needs.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children's health is effectively promoted in a clean and tidy environment where good hygiene procedures are practised and encouraged. For example, children are encouraged to wash their hands before meals and after toileting. Good procedures are in place for the recording of accidents, parents sign to acknowledge entry, keeping them informed at all times. However, written parental consent for seeking emergency medical treatment is not in place. This compromises children's health in the event of an emergency.

At present parents provide meals and snacks for all children, however, the childminder has a range of fruit available for snacks if needed. Drinks are available at all times, which helps children remain hydrated. Children have good opportunity to develop their physical skills. They walk regularly to the local schools, play in the garden and visit the local parks and soft play area.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a secure and welcoming home, where they move around freely and safely. There is a good range of toys and resources available, which are appropriate to the developmental needs of the children. The childminder has a range of fire prevention equipment in place to ensure children remain safe; smoke alarms are fitted and a fire blanket is in place in the kitchen. An emergency evacuation procedure is in place, however, this has not been fully practised with the children and a record is not in place. This does not develop children's awareness of fire safety.

Children are aware of road safety as they know why they wear yellow reflective bibs when on outings, 'We wear them to keep us safe near the road'. The childminder also discusses road safety with them, which helps to keep children safe on outings. However, the vehicle used to transport children is not appropriately insured. Which does not fully protect children's safety.

The childminder has sufficient knowledge of child protection issues and relevant procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child in her care.

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

The provision is good.

The children are very happy and settled in the setting and interact positively with the childminder. They show an interest in the good range of toys and resources available. For example, the children enjoy playing in the pop-up tents and tunnel for extended periods of time. They have fun building and playing with the blocks and super hero figures. These are readily accessible to children promoting their independence, as well as supporting their play and learning

The childminder listens to and values what children have to say; she responds well to their individual needs, prompted by verbal and non verbal requests. Children enjoy snuggling into the childminder as they talk about what they are doing.

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

The provision is good.

All children are treated with equal concern. They are very settled, happy and well behaved. The childminder provides lots of positive praise and encouragement, which develops the children's confidence and self-esteem. Children's understanding of diversity and the wider world is limited, as there are few resources to promote their awareness.

The childminder is proactive in welcoming children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She works closely with parents to ensure their individual needs are met. This helps to ensure all children are included within the setting. The childminder has a good partnership with parents. Regular communication between the childminder and parents enhances children's welfare. The childminder provides the parents with daily opportunities to verbally exchange information, this helps to ensure children's continuity of care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home and at ease with the childminder and in the environment. The childminder organises her time appropriately to meet the needs of the children. All adults in the household have been suitably vetted, keeping children safe. Adult-to-child ratios are maintained and an accurate record is in place. This ensures children receive the appropriate attention and care.

The childminder has a current first aid certificate, this helps to ensure children receive the appropriate care in the event of minor accidents. All records are retained for a reasonable period of time and are available for inspection.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to practise emergency evacuation procedures with children. Although the childminder is aware of an emergency evacuation procedure this has not been fully practised with the children.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Ofsted received concerns relating to National Standard 2 (Organisation) and National Standard 6 (Safety). An Ofsted inspector visited the provision on 24 May 2007. An action was raised and satisfactorily met by the registered provider. The provider remains qualified for registration.

## 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 written permission from parents is gained to seek advice or treatment in the event of an emergency
- ensure positive steps are taken to promote the safety of children within the setting and on outings, with regard to fire safety and transporting children
- further develop the range of toys and resources to promote positive images of diversity and the wider world.

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)