

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 401477 |
| Inspection date | 21 February 2008 |
| Inspector | Abigail Caroline Cunningham |

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| Type of inspection | Childcare |
| Type of care | 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.

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 2001. She lives with her husband and one child aged 13 years in the village of Sherburn-in-Elmet, North Yorkshire. The whole of the ground floor and toilet facilities on the first floor of the childminder's house are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have a rabbit.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding two child under five years, and two children before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. She holds a level 3 childcare qualification and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children enjoy physical activity, such as playing outside, walking to school and toddler group and going out on trips to the park. The children have regular opportunities to play with

equipment that promotes physical development, such as a trampoline, wheeled vehicles, threading beads, pencils and scissors.

Successful methods for promoting personal hygiene are used. For example, all areas of the premises are kept clean and there is liquid soap and individual hand towels available in the toilet.

The childminder is fully aware of all the children's individual dietary requirements and preferences. The menu is available for parents to see and meals are healthy and nutritious, such as wholemeal ham sandwiches, yogurt and fruit. The children have independent access to drinks at all times, which keeps them hydrated. This is because the children's individual feeder cups are placed where children can reach them.

Young children's nutritional needs are well met. This is because the childminder treats mealtimes as an opportunity to help children enjoy their food and become independent in feeding themselves. Young children have many opportunities to feed themselves using fingers and spoons.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children have independent access to a good range of age-appropriate toys, furniture and equipment to effectively meet their needs, such as dolls, prams, mark-making and arts and craft materials and a train track.

Children are cared for in a home where all risks are identified and minimised; for example, socket covers and safety gates are in place. Additionally, the system for managing access to the premises is good. Unauthorised persons are unable to gain entry as the exterior doors are kept locked at all times and all visitors have to ring the bell to gain entry. Therefore, the children are kept safe and free from harm. A fire escape plan is available and is practised regularly with the children to ensure that all children are familiar with the routine. Potential fire hazards are identified and made safe; for example, smoke alarms are fitted at all levels and are in working order and a fire blanket and extinguisher are sited in the kitchen.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, the childminder has devised a child protection policy which she shares with parents and has child protection contact numbers available. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and has attended child protection training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has a thorough understanding of how children develop and learn. For example, she has completed 'Birth to three matters' training. She effectively plans an excellent and interesting range of activities for the children. These are based on the children's individual needs and interests, such as regularly attending music and movement sessions.

The children are cared for in an exceptionally well organised setting, where there are consistent daily routines for eating, resting, playing and going out, which helps the children feel secure

and enjoy their day. The children are fully involved in activities, such as counting steps and looking at books.

The children are challenged to use what they know and to learn more. They make excellent progress in all aspects of their development. For example, one young child can successfully count from one to 10 and can correctly name various animals, colours and shapes.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a calm and positive manner and the children enjoy the childminder's company. As a result, the children are well behaved, happy and occupied. The children are confident and use their initiative; for example, after lunch, a young child independently chose a favourite book to look at with the childminder. The children have access to a good selection of resources which reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity, disability and gender, such as books, dolls and play figures.

Feedback from parents is positive, as letters from parents can be seen in the childminder's file. The childminder also encourages parents to share information and to do visits prior to starting so both parents, child and childminder can get to know each other. Further information is available through the parents' information file, which contains a copy of the childminder's policies and training certificates. As a result, the childminder's policies are easily accessible to parents. All information is shared with parents regularly. For example, the parents have access to their child's daily diary and scrap book. The scrap book shows examples of the child's artwork and the diary contains information regarding the child's day, such as activities undertaken and meals eaten.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All of the required documentation is in place and is confidentially stored. The childminder is aware of all the legal requirements; for example, she displays her registration certificate and holds public liability insurance. The childminder implements policies and procedures that are individual to her setting, are understood and have a positive impact on the children, such as a sick child policy, a behaviour policy and a complaints procedure.

The childminder works hard to evaluate and develop her practice; for example, she is currently completing a quality assurance scheme. Due to mitigating circumstances, the childminder has not renewed her first aid certificate, which means qualification requirements have not been met. However, she is booked on to attend a suitable course. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has improved fire safety, as she carries out regular fire drills with the children.

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):

- maintain a current first aid certificate.

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