

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY277836
<b>Inspection date</b>	11 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Jill Lee
<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 has been registered since 2004. She lives with her husband, four-year-old daughter and one-year-old son in the Wilthorpe district of Barnsley. The home is within walking distance of local shops and schools.

The downstairs only of the home is used for childminding, except for access to the upstairs bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family has two pet gerbils.

The childminder may care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She is currently caring for four children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA). She obtained a BTEC Diploma in Nursery Nursing in 1992 and has considerable experience working as a nanny. She successfully completed the quality assurance scheme of the NCMA, Quality First, which remains valid until May 2009.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy lots of physical activities and outings in the fresh air, which contribute to keeping them fit and well. They walk to and from school each day, often visiting the local park en route. They use a wide range of play equipment in the garden, as they enjoy bouncing on the trampoline, riding in the cars and playing on the swings. They routinely visit local toddler groups and 'Funworld' soft play centre, where they are able to develop their large physical skills. The childminder plans indoor exercise routines for rainy days. Children enjoy using the dance mat and playing hopscotch in the hall. They love music and movement sessions, copying the actions and bouncing energetically, like a 'monkey on the bed'.

Children are protected from infection by the childminder's awareness of health and hygiene guidelines. She raises their awareness of the importance of good hygiene in everyday routines, for example, after handling the gerbils. Arrangements for first aid and administering medication protect children appropriately, although systems to record consent to administer emergency medication are not as clearly defined. The childminder has not obtained written parental permission to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment and she is not fully familiar with the requirements relating to notifiable diseases.

The childminder is aware of individual dietary needs. She asks parents to provide a packed lunch and explains how she aims to promote healthy eating. For example, she discourages too many sweet foods and provides a choice of sugar-free juice, milk or water to drink. She provides healthy snacks, including fruit and toast, and always has fruit in the fruit bowl for children to request if they want some. She talks with children about healthy choices and offers regular drinks.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and very child-friendly home. The childminder organises space and resources well to reduce potential hazards. She considers the age range present when planning different activities and assesses risks appropriately to promote children's safety and enjoyment. For example, some activities are planned to be out of reach of younger children. Children use a broad range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards, helping them to enjoy a wide variety of experiences safely.

Children use the whole environment freely and older children can visit the toilet independently. Their awareness of risk and safety is raised in everyday activities. They learn to stay beside the childminder when they are out walking, to hold the pushchair and stop at the kerb when crossing the road together. She talks with children all the time about the dangers of busy roads and why it is important to 'cross with the green man'. She alerts children to the risks near large play equipment in the park. The childminder has a clear plan for emergency evacuation, which she practises regularly with children. Children's risk of accidents is minimised by careful supervision and consistently reinforced safety rules. They are encouraged to help to tidy away toys when they have finished, so the play area is kept safe.

The childminder understands her responsibility to protect children but is not fully confident to share her role within child protection procedures with parents. For example, she does not make

full and effective use of the system to record existing injuries. She is aware of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and there are systems in place to ensure any concerns identified are appropriately recorded. She has not recently updated her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and is not fully familiar with the procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and her responsibilities within them.

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

The provision is good.

Children love spending time with the childminder. She knows them extremely well and is highly attentive to their individual needs. She has daily conversations with parents, to ensure planning of activities is based around children's interests. The childminder provides a wealth of highly enjoyable experiences, which ensure that children are busy and contented. She develops detailed and creative plans, which are implemented very flexibly and often used only as a guide, so that activities are always very child led. She follows children in their play, supporting their ideas and sensitively suggesting a change of scene if needed. The childminder listens actively and with interest to what children say. Children can access resources independently, enabling them to plan their own play.

The childminder allows children time to explore independently, so that they become absorbed, for example, concentrating quietly as they make valentine cards. They enjoy imaginative experiences, as they build dens and play with the dolls. They see who can build the tallest tower with the bricks and enjoy knocking them down. They love using a wide range of instruments in their lively music sessions. They make their own music shakers and join in all the actions with vigour and excitement. They visit the animals at local farms and love feeding the ducks on the dam. They enjoy exploratory activities, as they make collage pictures, paint and play with dough.

The childminder has some awareness of the 'Birth to three matters' framework, which helps her to plan effectively to meet the development needs of younger children. She responds sensitively to their non-verbal communications. She keeps a photographic scrapbook to reflect the delightful range of activities they enjoy together, which children love looking at.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder works very closely with parents. She gets to know them well, as children settle, helping increase their sense of belonging. She talks with parents about her childcare practice and has a detailed information folder outlining all her qualifications and policies. She writes a daily diary to ensure parents, especially of younger children, are well informed about their day. She keeps photograph albums of shared activities to help children recall, and share with their parents, experiences they have enjoyed together.

Children's relationships with the childminder are warm and trusting. Daily routines are relaxed and child led. Children make their own suggestions about activities and access resources independently. The childminder introduces lots of choices into the daily routines. Children learn to manage their own needs, for example, they get aprons out of the utility room when they do their craft activity. They confidently let the childminder know what they want to do next and she responds supportively to their plans.

The childminder praises children and gives lots of warm encouragement in their play. She uses star charts to help them feel more involved in managing their own behaviour. Children are

helped to feel good about themselves, so that they learn to take turns, share and cooperate. The childminder is skilled in providing strategies to manage disputes and helping children to negotiate with each other when difficulties arise. She has a very firm and consistent approach, so that children are very clear about expectations. She plans activities to enable everyone to be actively involved. Children's awareness of their local community is raised well by regular outings to local groups, shops and parks. The childminder has a good range of resources, like books and dolls, which reflect other cultures.

The childminder has a relaxed and comfortable relationship with parents. They are very confident in her care of their children and have written very positive comments in a questionnaire. They like her 'friendly approach' and the 'excellent and safe learning environment' she provides. Parents are advised how to raise any concerns, as the childminder has a written complaints statement, which contains the contact details of the regulator. However, the childminder is not sufficiently familiar with current requirements relating to dealing with complaints. She is not aware of the requirement to keep a record of any complaints, although no complaints have in fact been received. This is a breach in regulation.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has a very caring and professional approach to her role. She organises space and resources very skilfully to engage children's interest and support their independent participation. Planning and routines reflect individual needs and interests, promoting children's welfare and development, so that they are completely relaxed and at ease in her home. The childminder has a commitment to training and her own personal development. She has been unable to access any training opportunities to update her practice during the recent period. However, she has plans to address this through a thorough review of her practice and current procedures for required documentation.

Simple written policies support the childminder's practice, so that children's welfare is safeguarded. Required documentation is appropriately organised and readily available for inspection. The childminder clearly understands requirements with regard to reaching agreements with parents relating to children's care needs, so that their wishes are clearly understood. Policies are available for parents' information and clear written agreements inform the childminder's practice. Information is shared daily with parents about children's activities and care needs.

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 review the child protection policy to include procedures if allegations are made against herself. The childminder is clearly aware of her responsibility to inform Ofsted if any allegations are made against herself. She has clear recording procedures in place but is not fully aware of current requirements or the procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

### **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):

- clarify the procedures for dealing with medical emergencies and become familiar with the requirements relating to notifiable diseases
- update awareness of child protection issues and become fully familiar with the procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- improve knowledge and develop systems for the recording of complaints, in line with regulations.

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)