

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY287513
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 December 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Diana Pidgeon
<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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2004. She lives with her partner and two children in a residential area of Hucknall. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding with toilet facilities on the first floor. The family has a dog and a rabbit as pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five during the day and one child over five occasionally after school. She also provides some limited care for five children over the age of eight years either before or after school. She takes and collects children from the local school.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association, and attends the local childminding support group.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is successfully promoted because the childminder follows good hygiene procedures that contribute to preventing the spread of infection. Children learn to wash their hands before they eat and after using the toilet. Furthermore, good arrangements are in place to ensure the family dog does not pose any risk to children's health and that the home is kept clean and tidy. Children receive appropriate care if they have an accident whilst in the childminder's care as she is trained to administer first aid and has relevant consents in place to enable her to seek any necessary emergency treatment. Appropriate records of any accidents are maintained and these are shared with parents so that children may receive ongoing care. The childminder has a secure understanding of the necessary consents and records that need to be held if she is required to administer any medication. Clear agreements are in place so that children who are poorly do not attend, so that the risk of cross infection is minimised.

Children benefit from being encouraged to eat a healthy diet. For example, children are offered fresh fruit as a snack and understand that crisps and sweets are only for treats. They enjoy a balanced range of meals and are able to make choices such as what to have in their sandwiches. Babies' individual feeding routines are followed so that they are nourished according to their own needs. Suitable arrangements are in place to accommodate any dietary needs and to inform parents about what their child has eaten during the day.

Children play actively and enjoy quiet times during the day. Although the children do not have access to the garden good use is made of the park and community groups to provide challenging physical activities. Younger children enjoy pushing prams indoors and learn to negotiate the toys and furnishings successfully. This helps them to gain coordination and control. Older children walk to and from school, which provides a chance for them to be in the fresh air. They also benefit from playing at the park when the weather is fine. Such opportunities contribute to children's enjoyment of a healthy lifestyle.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. They benefit from ample space on the ground floor of the home where they can play and relax. Toys are readily accessible in the conservatory so that children can choose what they wish to do. They safely fetch items such as puzzles and dough to use at the table and this helps to promote their independence. Children's safety is further promoted as the childminder takes positive steps to minimise any recognised hazards around the home. She provides a high level of supervision when children are playing and is always alert to what they do. Careful consideration is given to ensuring the family dog does not pose a risk to children by providing a large cage to restrict it when necessary.

Children begin to learn how to keep themselves safe through guidance from the childminder. For example, they understand that they should sit still while eating so that they do not choke. Good arrangements are in place to protect children from the risk of fire. They regularly practise the evacuation procedure and this helps to raise their awareness of what to do in an emergency. Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a secure knowledge and understanding of her responsibilities towards protecting children from abuse and neglect. She demonstrates

a clear understanding of what to do if she were to be concerned about a child in the future so that their welfare is safeguarded.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They enjoy her company and friendly, trusting relationships are established. Children involve her in their play and readily approach her for support and guidance. Toys and play materials are easily accessible and children make choices in what they do so that they are always busy and engaged. For example, children play with the home play items in the conservatory and bring out items such as play dough and puzzles to use at the table. Children's learning is generally supported by the childminder who encourages their use of language through her conversations with them. For example, she questions children about the sounds animals make as they read together. However, the childminder has a limited knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and how this can be used to promote younger children's learning. This means opportunities to support all aspects of learning are not always seized.

Children learn to work harmoniously with others and enjoy their company. They play cooperatively with toys such as the trains and track. Activities undertaken outside of the home include visits to local toddler groups and this supports children's developing social skills. Daily routines are based around children's attendance at school and nursery. Younger children have periods of activity and opportunities for quiet times and rest, according to their own needs.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are relaxed in the comfortable and familiar surroundings. They are recognised as individuals and their needs and preferences are acknowledged. For example, when setting up some of the larger play items the childminder takes account of what children's abilities and interests. Children are developing some awareness of diversity as they make use of activities in the local community and access some suitable resources that promote appreciation and understanding. Although the childminder does not currently care for any children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities she demonstrates a positive attitude towards working alongside parents and with external agencies to meet the needs of all children placed with her.

Children's good behaviour is encouraged through praise and reward. Children understand the rules of the house and receive sensitive support to enable them to deal with a range of situations. Children are helped to learn how to play together, to share resources and to take turns fairly. This helps children to build positive relationships. The childminder regularly communicates with parents verbally and for younger children sometimes maintains daily diaries which are used to exchange news. She makes contracts with the parents so that the care needs of the children are agreed and seeks parental consents to ensure their wishes are known and recorded. However, the childminder is not fully aware of her responsibilities with regard to dealing with complaints about her service or to have systems to share a record of any complaints with the parents.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are comfortable in the childminder's home and benefit from a well organised environment that provides them with appropriate opportunities for play. Daily routines offer a variety of activities both in the home and wider community. All of the necessary documentation is maintained to promote children's safety and welfare and is readily available for inspection.

The childminder has undertaken a first aid course and this ensures she is able to act appropriately in a medical emergency. However, she has failed to complete a recognised pre-registration course to give her the required underpinning knowledge on which to build her practice. This was recommended at the last inspection but has not been completed. Consequently, the childminder does not meet the overall qualification requirements necessary to meet the National Standards. Overall children's needs are not met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection the childminder has completed a suitable first aid course and sought written consent from parents to seek emergency advice or treatment for children, if necessary. This ensures she is able to act in the children's best interests in a medical emergency. Further consents have been sought to enable her to take children on outings or in a vehicle. This means parents are fully aware of and agree to the arrangements when children are taken out of the home. The childminder has also organised her play materials so that these are accessible to the children, allowing them opportunities to make choices in what they do. She has added to her resources so that she has some items that reflect diversity.

It was recommended that the childminder completed a local authority approved pre-registration course. This has not been completed, meaning that the childminder does not meet the National Standards. The completion of a suitable course is taken forward from this inspection.

## **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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- demonstrate how an appropriate pre-registration course will be completed

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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)