

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	401010
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Jane Elizabeth O'Callaghan
<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 outstanding. 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 1990. She lives with her husband and three adult children in Knaresborough. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She currently has 16 children on roll and, of these, seven are over eight years old. Children attend on a full- and part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends local toddler and childminding groups. The family have two cats.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She holds the Gold Quality Assurance Award and is a member of the local childminding network.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is outstanding.

The children are provided with an excellent range of activities, both in the home and outside, that promote their well-being. There are daily activities that support and develop the children's physical needs. For example, the children have access to an excellent outdoor area and regular opportunities to visit local amenities and walks to school.

The children are made aware of positive hygiene practices through the extremely effective hygiene routines and facilities provided. The childminder has a downstairs toilet, where the children access their own individual towels. The childminder also has pictures made by the children, reminding them to wash their hands, and this was done as a competition for all children. This ensures children's awareness of very good hygiene procedures.

The family have two cats as pets; however, all cat food is kept out of reach of children and the childminder has an animal policy in how she treats animals, in relation to when she is caring for children. This she shows to parents

There is ongoing monitoring of equipment and toys to ensure that they are kept clean, especially with the younger children. The childminder has strict regimes on cleaning toys and equipment that children come in to contact with. She cleans and checks them weekly and after children have finished playing with them, ensuring that they are in excellent condition. There are clear details in the care and exclusion of sick and ill children as a well-written policy is available to parents. All these procedures help to prevent cross-infection.

All children have regular drinks, are aware of the importance of drinking and have access to their own cups throughout their day. The childminder offers a variety of regular healthy and nutritious meals for the older children who stay for evening meal. Younger children bring their own packed lunches which are stored appropriately in the kitchen for the children. All meals are home cooked and the childminder ensures that children have fresh vegetables and meat and also daily helpings of fruit. This ensures that individual children's likes, dislikes, dietary needs and parents' requests are met. The childminder has attended a food hygiene course.

The childminder has attended 'Birth to three matters' training and has the relevant information displayed for parents. When caring for babies, the childminder asks parents to bring their own formulas and, if required, the childminder would be prepared to purée her homemade meals for them. She would always work according to both the child's needs and the parents' wishes.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The children are cared for in an environment which offers excellent well-planned areas, with good facilities to actively meet the children's needs in a positive manner. The childminder has a very good understanding of safety both in the home and outside. For example, the childminder has safety gates, regularly practises fire evacuation plans and tests smoke alarms weekly. She takes all positive steps with the children to promote safety and prevent accidents in their play, through safe access to the resources. The children have a very good awareness of the safety limits, which ensures that they have freedom to take risks whilst learning effectively of dangers and ways to protect themselves. On outings by foot or in the car, the childminder assesses the trip and all children are seated in correctly fitted car seats and she has all written information

of not only her children, but other childminders' children on the outing with her. The childminder has door alarms on all external doors and asks all visitors to sign in a book. This ensures that children's safety is priority to the childminder at all times.

The children are encouraged to develop their independence through accessing the toys and activities and exploring their surroundings. Risks are carefully assessed to reduce potential hazards and the childminder has a written risk assessment policy which is evaluated regularly. The quality and range of toys and equipment are extremely good and appropriate to the ages and levels of children's development.

Children are very well protected by the childminder, who has a good understanding of child protection. She has attended all relevant training and has written policies in place. There are detailed procedures in place, which parents are made aware of, and this ensures that children's welfare is paramount at all times.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The children are extremely happy and relaxed and they thoroughly enjoy their time with the childminder and her family. The children relate well to children and adults. They are able to extend their social, physical and learning skills through regular visits to groups in the community and further afield. For example, they visit the local school, parks, childminding groups and local places of interest. These provide the children with an excellent range of experiences and challenges in interesting settings.

The children are eager to participate. The childminder is sensitive to their individual needs and offers a flexible child-led approach to the activities and resources that they want to access. She skilfully adapts what she offers to ensure that all the children take part. This enables the younger children to be involved in a variety of creative resources, such as water, sand, paints and play dough, and they experience tactile and sensory materials. The children sit with the childminder and talk about what they have done during the day, relating it to the time of year. This fosters children's listening skills and helps them to recognise things that are familiar to them.

The childminder has a superb range of toys that cover all areas and stages of all children's development. She offers children a rich, varied and imaginative time with her through the excellent range of role play equipment on offer to them. For example, children can access a play kitchen with all amenities like a kettle, lots of different dolls and an extensive range of dressing up clothes. Children use their imagination through role play, which encourages their social development.

There are positive caring relationships established, which promotes children's confidence and communication skills. The children develop a strong sense of self, which is particularly evident with the toddlers. It is evident through both photographic and present evidence that the childminder has a exceptional and inspiring relationship with the children in her care. For example, she joins in with the children at their level and asks open questions, leading to full conversations with children. This develops children's confidence and also their socialising in a fun and enjoyable environment.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder offers the children a vast range of meaningful resources and activities that promote a positive insight of the wider world and an awareness of differences and enhances all aspects. For example, the children celebrate a wide selection of festivals and access a vibrant range of resources available, depicting all areas of equal opportunities. The children have regular access to the community, which supports her approach. The childminder takes account of all the children's individual needs and this is shared with parents to ensure that they are continually met.

Behaviour is managed in a caring and sensitive way, which ensures that the children have an excellent awareness of the boundaries in place, as the childminder is consistent in her approach. The children learn to negotiate and take responsibility for their behaviour. Children share and take turns and care for each other by ensuring that the toys they play with are safe and suitable. The children are encouraged to make choices in their play and develop their independence. The childminder is an excellent role model for behaviour and children are well mannered and behave in an exemplary manner. For example, children wait their turn to talk and say 'please' and 'thank you' without being reminded.

The childminder does not care for any children at present with learning difficulties or disabilities. However, she has had a wealth of experience and training in this area. The childminder explained that on a weekend she assists her daughter who is the main carer for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She has an excellent range of toys and equipment. For example, sensory boxes, adapted toys, books and jigsaws. She also has a meticulously detailed policy and procedure that she shares with parents. The childminder would always talk to and work with both parents and outside agencies if she had any concerns with children in her care. The childminder has also attended an extensive range of training in this area. This ensures that children are cared for exceedingly well according to their individual needs.

Relationships with parents are constantly high, which contributes to the children's well-being. Parents' views are valued and they are encouraged to visit the childminder before the child starts, so that they can make an informed choice in the care offered. Daily diaries are used with parents to share information regularly and effectively, as are yearly scrap books containing photographs of activities that the children have participated in. There are policies and procedures in place which extend the information on the support and care provided. Contracts of agreements are used effectively and reviewed regularly. The childminder has lots of the children's work displayed for parents. She also displays her certificate of registration along with a robust complaint procedure of which, along with all policies and procedures, parents are made aware of. This ensures that both parents and children's needs are met through the professional approach of the childminder.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder is extremely well organised and efficient in all aspects of her provision. The children are welcomed into a safe and extremely well-resourced environment that benefits their well-being. This enables the children to be confident and happy, to initiate their play and learning, and to develop accordingly.

There are highly comprehensive policies and procedures in place that support the quality of the childminding offered and cover all the National Standards requirements. All documents and records are kept and stored securely and maintain confidentiality.

The childminder has consistently attended training to enhance her skills and knowledge in all areas of childcare. For example, 'Birth to three matters', autism, epilepsy, fire and safety, first aid, food hygiene and child protection and she continues to access these through the local support group. She has received a lot of advice and support from other childminders, which she has accepted. The childminder has also achieved her Gold Quality Assurance training. She is very dedicated to her training and her childminding and maintains a professional approach. She is active in her community as a representative of early years childcare provision through being a long-term member of the childminding group.

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 make the following improvements to her practice. She was asked to ensure that the procedure for the administration of medicines is implemented correctly at all times in relation to documentation. The childminder completes a full medication form for parents to sign instructing dosage, time and date. Parents and the childminder sign the forms to say that permission is given and that the child has received correct dosage.

The childminder was also asked to ensure that the times of children's arrival and departure are recorded in the daily attendance record. The childminder has a register showing each child's daily arrival and departure times as and when they come and leave the childminders premises.

These improvements ensure children are cared for in a safe and caring environment.

### **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 complaint 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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)