



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY220995
<b>Inspection date</b>	19 December 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Hilary Mary Mckenning

<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 a registered childminder since August 2002.

She lives with her husband, and adult son and daughter. The family live in a house that is within walking distance of Wombwell centre. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully-enclosed yard to the rear that is available for the children. The family has a dog.

The childminder is registered to care for five children and she is caring for three children on a part-time basis. They attend for a variety of sessions.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from illness and infection as they follow good personal hygiene procedures, which are part of their daily routine. They are encouraged to take care of their own personal hygiene, such as the washing of hands before and after eating. This results in children developing a clear understanding of their own personal hygiene needs.

Children enjoy a variety of physical activities, which contribute to their good health. They access a range of outdoor play equipment freely whenever the weather permits, along with walks to and from school. They enjoy playing on the ride-on toys. Children are able to rest or be active according to their needs and enjoy regular access to the local park. The childminder has a positive attitude towards physical exercise and recognises the importance of fresh air and exercise. Therefore, children are beginning to develop their physical skills in an appropriate manner.

Children are provided with a healthy and nutritious range of snacks and meals. Clear records show dietary requirements and children's and parents' preferences are catered for appropriately. The childminder encourages children to discuss options so that they do have choices, for example whether they would like water, juice or milk to drink. This results in children being well-nourished as they develop an understanding of the importance of healthy eating.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared-for in a secure and safe environment. The childminder gives high priority to ensuring hazards are identified and steps taken to minimise them, which allows children the opportunity to move around freely and safely. For example, socket covers and safety gates are in place and low-level cupboards are free from hazards. The childminder talks to the children about safety issues and supervises them well, achieving a good balance between freedom and safe limits; for example, children understand the consequences of climbing on furniture or running around inside. This results in children developing an increasing awareness of their own safety.

Children's toys and equipment are of generally good quality, conform to safety standards and are presented appropriately to allow children freedom to access them safely and independently. Children are well protected as the childminder has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities with regards to child protection matters. She is secure in her knowledge regarding keeping children safe and has a copy of the Area Child Protection Procedures.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled and have warm, positive relationships with the childminder. This is due to effective communication with parents and regular sharing of information, taking the time to get to know their likes and dislikes and helping them feel at home. Children receive lots of cuddles, attention and interaction which contribute to their sense of well being.

Children enjoy an interesting and stimulating balance of activities and experiences, allowing for active play and time to relax. They benefit from well-established routines that cater for their individual needs resulting in them being secure and confident in their surroundings. Children become independent as they choose from a variety of free-play toys and resources to pursue their own interests. They become engaged and involved in activities that provide them with all-round good physical skills, including fine motor skills. Although the childminder is starting to refer to the Birth to three matters framework, they are not fully effective in ensuring activities meet children's needs.

Good opportunities allow children to explore the immediate environment with interest and regularly build on their natural curiosity. For example, children experience regular walks and outings within the local community.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn to feel good about themselves in a supportive and accepting environment. This is because the childminder takes time to get to know them and works with parents to ensure their daily routines are successfully followed. She treats children with equal concern valuing their individuality and meeting their needs effectively. Children have access to a range of resources and opportunities to learn about themselves and the world around them. However this is not fully explored to raise children's awareness about culture and diversity.

Strategies used to manage children's behaviour are consistent and take into account children's level of understanding and maturity. This positive approach to behaviour management establishes clear and realistic boundaries for children and effectively promotes their welfare and development.

Partnership with parents is good and works successfully to meet the needs of the children. For example, she finds out about children's preferences and routines and regularly consults with parents about their care. Parents receive good quality information about the provision. Children clearly benefit from the positive partnership the childminder has developed with parents and children settle well in response.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare and enjoyment is promoted by good organisation and flexible

planning. Routines are responsive to individual needs and effectively support children's care and development. They are able to participate actively within an organised and safe environment. Children's experiences are enhanced as the childminder uses training opportunities to improve her practice.

The childminder shares her portfolio with parents which contribute to the effective operation of her childminding practices. Most recordings are in place, however the registration certificate is not displayed. Space and resources are organised effectively to successfully meet the needs of the children.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection a recommendation to extend the range of toys and activities to meet all the developmental needs of the children and to further develop. There was also a recommendation to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

Toys and activities have been extended which meet the developmental needs of all minded children. These help to ensure the individual needs of children are met well. However, resources and activities that help children learn about diversity require further development.

The childminder has attended training relating to this issue of child protection to ensure children are protected.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

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. There are no complaints to report.

## **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.
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### **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):

- further develop resources and activities that help children learn about diversity
- ensure registration certificate is displayed.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)