

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY275834
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 May 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Karen Marie Tervit
<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 December 2003. She lives with her husband and three children aged 15 years, nine years and two years. They live in the Fishburn area of County Durham. The house is situated within easy distance of local amenities. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. There are currently three children on roll under five years and one child over eight years. Children are cared for on a part time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's awareness of effective hygiene practices is raised by the childminder explaining the importance of following good routines. Children are cared for in a warm, clean home. This

contributes to their good health and sense of security. The childminder has appropriate hygiene routines in place to protect and promote children's health. For example, nappies are changed using a mat, which is wiped down after use. She has clear procedures in place regarding sick children, medication and accident recording.

The childminder has a sound awareness of healthy eating. She takes account of parent's wishes for their children and complies with any special dietary requirements when providing drinks, meals and snacks to ensure children remain healthy. Young children enjoy sitting in their highchair, securely strapped in, enjoying a snack of fresh strawberries.

Children enjoy a range of physical activities that contribute to their good health. Daily activities include opportunities for children to have physical exercise. For example, as they play outside in the garden or feed the ducks at the local park. Young children thoroughly enjoy sessions at the nearby Sure Start centre. Children are able to rest and be active according to their individual needs.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean home where risks are identified and minimised. This means that they are able to move around independently. There are satisfactory arrangements in place to keep children safe in the event of a fire. The childminder knows how she would get out of the house in an emergency and practises this on a regular basis with the children; however, she does not record these practises. Children learn how to keep themselves safe while on outings, for example, older children are encouraged to walk sensibly and younger children know they need to be securely strapped into their buggy or car seat.

A wide range of developmentally appropriate equipment and toys, which are in a safe, well-maintained condition are provided to promote children's development and welfare.

Children are well protected as the childminder demonstrates a sound awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. She is familiar with the Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder displays children's artwork and photographs giving them a sense of belonging and pride. The childminder knows the children well and provides them with opportunities to mix and socialise with other children at Sure Start sessions and soft play centres. Children enjoy playing with dolls and pushchairs or pressing the buttons on musical books.

The childminder provides a suitable variety of interesting and purposeful activities. Consequently, children are motivated and interested. Children have opportunities to develop their counting skills with the childminder's gentle support. Children's self-esteem is developing because of the childminder's encouragement and praise. Children are settled in the childminder's care.

Children's communication skills are developing well as a result of the childminder talking and listening to them. The childminder is interested in what the children do and say and becomes actively involved in their play, for example, as they make simple animal sounds. They enjoy going on outings to places, such as the farm and the park.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed into the setting and participate in all activities because the childminder values and respects their individuality. The childminder's understanding of each child's needs is used to encourage a sense of security and belonging. She provides some activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity. A positive attitude towards caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities is shown by the childminder.

The childminder uses positive strategies for managing children's behaviour. She is a good role model, encourages children to share and take turns and gives children praise and encouragement for their achievements. This helps children to understand the boundaries set and to behave well.

Children benefit from the good partnership that the childminder has developed with their parents. Parent's views about their children's needs are sought before the child starts and this enables the childminder to meet each child's individual needs. Parents are kept verbally informed about their child's day and activities, and the policies and procedures of the setting are shared with them. However, a format for the recording of complaints or concerns has not yet been devised.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled within the childminder's home. The childminder has completed an appropriate first aid course so children are well protected in the event of an accident. A record of children's attendance is kept and indicates that required ratios are maintained. Time is organised effectively which results in children receiving appropriate support and their needs being well met.

Documentation is suitably organised and readily available for inspection. Records are kept up to date to safeguard children's welfare and confidentiality is well maintained. The childminder is aware of her responsibility for notifying Ofsted of significant changes. She displays her certificate of registration in the playroom. However, she has a limited understanding of the frameworks that support young children's learning.

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 an action was raised asking the childminder to ensure that Ofsted is informed of any significant events. The childminder is now fully aware of her responsibilities to keep Ofsted informed.

## **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):

- record the practise of the emergency evacuation procedure
- devise a format for the recording of complaints or concerns
- increase knowledge of the frameworks which support young children's learning.

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)