

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY334759
<b>Inspection date</b>	29 April 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Elaine Marie McDonnell
<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 July 2006. She lives with her partner and four children, who are aged 17, 15, 10 and four years, in an established residential area of Grangetown in Cleveland. The home is close to local amenities, such as shops, schools and a library. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes, including the new conservatory and the bathroom on the first floor. There is an enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time and there are currently eight children on roll, four being aged over eight years. Some children are taken to and collected from local schools. The family has a dog and two hamsters, which minded children have supervised access to.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay appropriately healthy because the childminder follows some hygiene procedures to ensure that equipment is kept clean. However, hygiene procedures are not sufficiently

rigorous to ensure that furniture and carpets are kept free of dog hairs. The childminder demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of how to help children begin to learn about simple hygiene practices, for example, by promoting hand washing throughout the daily routine.

Appropriate procedures are in place to protect children's overall health and parents receive written information about exclusion periods for certain childhood illnesses. Accident and medication records are available, however, the childminder does not have written consent from all parents for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment.

Children are appropriately nourished. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how to provide a varied and nutritious diet. Children also attend a local Sure Start Centre for a healthy lunch on a weekly basis. The childminder finds out about any dietary requirements or family preferences from parents to ensure that individual requirements are met. Children learn about healthy living when involved in craft activities relating to healthy eating.

Children have good opportunities to enjoy physical activity. For example, when visiting nearby parks and play fields. They also visit many different social groups where they get involved in large physical play. Children rest, sleep and eat according to their needs and individual routines, which the childminder is well aware of.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Some appropriate steps are taken to ensure that children are cared for in a safe environment. For example, smoke alarms are in place plus a suitable first aid box and fire blanket. However, medicines are not securely stored out of children's reach. Appropriate steps are taken to ensure that children are kept safe when playing outdoors and when on outings, for example, the rear garden is fully secure and appropriate car safety seats are available. Children learn to keep themselves safe when involved in fire drills, which are recorded.

The environment is warm and welcoming for the children with a varied range of toys available in the lounge. Children have easy access to play materials and the childminder ensures that these are safe and suitable for use with regular checking and cleaning routines. Resources are in good condition, however, some furniture is not, for example, the bathroom door is damaged, as is the sofa in the conservatory. These pose a safety risk to children.

Children are appropriately protected, the childminder understands her role in relation to child protection issues and is able to put local procedures into practice when necessary. She demonstrates a good understanding of the main areas of abuse and of possible signs.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of a range of activities to provide for children to cover all areas of development. Photographs show minded children involved in various activities and outings, such as gardening, painting and gluing and visits to different farms and social groups.

The childminder demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of how to help children develop confidence and self-esteem. For example, by offering praise for their achievements. Children

have opportunities to be independent and use their initiative, such as when helping the childminder to prepare lunch.

Children have some opportunities to learn about wider society as they have access to some resources which positively reflect diversity, such as books, dolls and other items from the toy library. Children are involved in activities relating to their own cultural traditions, such as Easter and Christmas. They also learn about the needs of others when raising money for 'Red Nose Day'.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of how to promote equal opportunities. There are currently no children with any learning difficulties, disabilities, or who speak English as an additional language attending the setting. However, the childminder has a very positive attitude towards caring for children with additional needs.

Minded children are observed to be settled and happy in the childminder's care. She demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of how to manage children's behaviour, for example, by offering positive attention, such as cuddles for positive behaviour and ignoring negative behaviour where possible, such as tantrums.

The setting works well in partnership with parents and carers. Parents are kept informed of their child's development and progress through regular discussions. Parents receive useful written information about the provision which includes, details about the childminder's family, activities provided, meals, visits, sickness, collection of children and fees. Appropriate consent forms from most parents are available and contract agreements are in place to support working in partnership.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures that adults caring for children are suitable to do so, and will ensure that her partner complies with vetting procedures. The childminder has an appropriate first aid qualification and has attended an introduction course relating to the Early Years Foundation Stage since the last inspection.

Most documents and records required for the safe and efficient management of the provision are available, well kept and up to date. However, there are no personal details available for children of a close friend, whom the childminder cared for over the Easter holidays.

Attendance records show that adult-to-child ratios are maintained. Registers are kept up to date and accurate. The childminder has high regard for the well-being of all children and they receive appropriate adult support and attention. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

At the previous inspection the childminder was asked to develop the emergency evacuation procedure and to practise the fire drill. Children's safety has been promoted as this recommendation has been fully addressed.

The childminder was also asked to develop a complaints procedure for parents and ensure that the attendance record is kept accurate and up to date. The organisation of the provision and partnership with parents has improved as these recommendations have been fully addressed.

### **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):

- ensure good standards of hygiene and cleanliness in relation to dog hairs
- request written consent from all parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure that medicines are stored out of children's reach in the kitchen and that all furniture and equipment is in good condition
- ensure that personal details are available for all children cared for.

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)