

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY350594
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 April 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 good. 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 2007. She lives with her husband and two adult children in Carville, near to Durham City. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has a dog.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding five children all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder goes to local schools to take and collect children. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about good personal hygiene through the childminder being a positive role model. For example, she frequently washes her hands, chatting all the time about what she is doing. Her home is warm, clean and well maintained. Good procedures are in place for the management and prevention of illness and accidents.

Children's physical development is well promoted through regular opportunities for exercise and energetic play both indoors and outdoors. For example, children love splashing through puddles or being active at one of the many pre-school groups they visit.

Children's health and growth are well promoted through the varied and nutritious home cooked meals parents provide. Children learn about healthy food and how food grows during their regular trips to the allotment, where they sow seeds and pick fruit.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment where they are happy and well settled. The childminder has a good understanding of how to keep children safe both indoors and when on outings, and possible risks have been identified and minimised to ensure safe surroundings, for example, an emergency escape plan has been devised and is practised with the children. However, the glass in the patio doors has not been highlighted to them.

There is a varied range of suitable and stimulating toys, books and other play materials readily available and easily accessible for children. The childminder ensures these remain safe and hygienic for children with regular checking routines.

Children are well protected. The childminder has a sound understanding of her responsibilities in relation to child protection and is keen to access further training in this area. She ensures that all required procedures and documentation are in place for the promotion of children's welfare.

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

The provision is good.

Warm relationships have been developed between the childminder and the children, which increases children's sense of trust and this helps them to develop a sense of self. Children's communication skills are developing well, as a result of the childminder talking and listening to them.

Children use a good range of toys and equipment, which is appropriate to their age and stage of development. A range of toys is set out before the children arrive for them to independently access. The childminder has a good understanding of child development and the frameworks which support young children's learning and uses these in her planning, which is flexible and appropriate to the ages and stages of the children. Although there a wide range of play materials available for them, babies have limited access to natural materials.

The childminder provides suitable activities which contribute to children's development. For example, babies delight in playing with small balls or pressing the buttons on musical toys. Older children enjoy planting sunflower seeds and watching them grow. Children are able to relax or be active according to individual needs.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a wide range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world, beginning to increase children's understanding of others. For example,

children taste foods from different countries or learn about different cultures, such as Buddhism and Sikhism. Regular trips into the local environment help widen their experiences. They visit local parks and toddler groups. The childminder has a positive attitude towards caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Children show a sense of belonging in the childminder's home, settling well and making choices about what they do. Their self-esteem is developed as they receive regular praise and encouragement for their efforts.

A good relationship has been established between the childminder and parents. Children are looked after according to parents' wishes, following discussion at the initial visit and frequent informal chats. This enables her to offer the child appropriate support. Parents are kept informed about what their children are going to do and are updated when they pick their children up or by text message. Parents know how to complain.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a very professional attitude towards her role and is committed to providing good outcomes for children. She has attended additional training since she became registered. For example, Peal training which helps her work in partnership with parents and food hygiene and safety course which helps her to promote children's health.

The care and environment is well organised to meet children's needs and the childminder uses information from parents as a basis for their individual care. Children receive good adult support and attention at all times.

All available documentation is comprehensive, well kept, well presented and promotes the safe and efficient management of the provision.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

Not applicable.

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

Since registration 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 good. 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):

- highlight patio doors
- extend children's opportunities to experience natural materials.

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)