

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY360545
<b>Inspection date</b>	02 May 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Pauline Garfield
<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 three children aged 14, eight and seven years in Goldthorpe, near Rotherham. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years and one over five years, on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a pet dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder has good cleaning routines in place, and ensures the premises and equipment are clean before children arrive. Children have their own flannels and the childminder teaches

them good hygienic practices, such as washing hands at appropriate times. This limits the spread of infection. Good arrangements for the care of pets ensure they do not pose a health risk to children. For example, cleaning bowls are kept out of the way of children and cleaned on a daily basis. However, the childminder does not have written permission for children to have access to the family pet dog. Arrangements for administering medication meet requirements and protect children. Children benefit from regular routines that take into account children's individual needs for resting, eating and sleeping. This helps them to feel secure and content.

The childminder works closely with parents to provide food and snacks in line with their preferences, and children's likes and dislikes. Balanced and nutritious meals and snacks are provided by the childminder, and children are encouraged to drink plenty of water. The childminder talks with children about the benefits of healthy eating and exercise. Children have access to an enclosed garden where they play with a good selection of physical equipment, such as skipping ropes, hoops and tunnels. They benefit from the effects of fresh air as they enjoy regular visits and outings to the local duck pond.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is well organised, warm and comfortable, and children are happy and settled. Older children are encouraged to bring their own slippers, if they wish, which they can change into when they arrive at the childminder's house. Space and resources allow children to play and learn. Equipment and toys are of very good quality, clean and well maintained. Children are able to explore and develop whilst being fully supervised by the childminder. The childminder has appropriately identified potential risks and taken action to ensure the environment is safe. For example, plug socket covers, a fireguard and a carbon monoxide detector are in place. A fire plan is displayed on the wall and a fire drill is completed once a month to ensure children know how to exit the building in the event of an emergency.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection. She has attended an 'Awareness and Safeguarding Children' course, and knows how to approach and deal with any situations that may occur. The childminder has a child protection policy in place which she shares with parents. Appropriate knowledge of who to contact in the event of any concerns ensures children are well protected.

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

The provision is good.

Young children reach for toys, developing their hand-eye coordination. They are interested in the activities available and vocalise and babble happily as they are involved in their play. The childminder interacts appropriately with children, holding them close and pointing to objects of interest around the room. She sits on the floor with children as they access an abacus, bricks and toy cars, and encourages purposeful play. The childminder has a good understanding of the appropriate activities to provide for all children. Young children enjoy sensory experiences and play with textured objects from a 'treasure box'. All children enjoy a range of creative activities, such as finger and hand painting.

The childminder plans a range of activities for children including baking, drawing, play dough and looking at books. Children enjoy looking at shapes and colours and the childminder records children's activities and shares her observations with parents. Musical instruments are set out as an activity, and children smile and show pleasure as the childminder sings action and finger

rhymes to them. All children are interested and motivated at the activities provided as they extend their skills and knowledge, in a stimulating environment where they learn through play.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder is sensitive to the needs of all children and comforts and reassures them when they are upset. She has a good understanding of equal opportunities and children are treated with equal respect and concern. Clear boundaries are in place and positive behaviour management is used. For example, sticker charts and certificates reward good behaviour. Children are encouraged to share and take turns with toys and equipment. The childminder has a good understanding of how to support children with learning difficulties and disabilities and how to work with parents to establish children's individual needs. Play items representing positive images of diversity are readily available. Planned activities, such as celebrating Chinese New Year, increase children's awareness of diversity.

The childminder has a positive, respectful relationship with parents. Parents' wishes are taken into account when establishing children's routines and individual needs. The childminder has established a friendly and supportive relationship with parents and information is readily exchanged on a daily basis. Parents are very happy with the care provided and appreciate the childminder is approachable and consistent in her work.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and settled in the warm, caring, organised environment. Space is used well and allows children to sleep and rest according to their needs. The childminder has a detailed self-evaluation of how she provides care in line with the National Standards.

The childminder is enthusiastic and enjoys caring for children. She ensures adult: child ratios are met, and that children are fully supervised at all times. The childminder has attended all the required mandatory training and is keen to access further training to develop her skills. Policies and procedures are well organised and reflect the good practice of the childminding service provided. 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 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 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):

- obtain written permission for children to have access to the family pet dog.

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)