



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	302692
<b>Inspection date</b>	03 August 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 good. 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 1996. She lives with her husband and 11 year old son in a house in Darton, near Barnsley. They live close to local schools, shops and other amenities. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a garden available for outdoor play. The family has a pet dog.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently caring for four children on a part time basis.

The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group. She is a member of the

childminding network in Barnsley and the local childminding group 'Childminders Together'. She is also a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well-maintained environment and the childminder actively promotes good hygiene to prevent the spread of infection and keep children healthy. The childminder acts in the best interest of the children when they are ill and clear procedures protect others from illness and infection. Effective procedures are in place for first aid and the administering of medication, ensuring children are protected. Arrangements for pets successfully promote good levels of hygiene and ensure they do not pose a health risk to children.

Children enjoy good levels of support and supervision that effectively enables them to be healthy, active and benefit from plenty of fresh air outdoors. For example, skills such as climbing, running and swinging are practised regularly. Children's individual needs are well catered for. Clear records indicate that individual dietary requirements and preferences are discussed with parents. Children have access to regular drinks and good arrangements are in place for those who cannot ask.

Children are involved in helping to plan menus. They enjoy healthy and nutritionally balanced meals and snacks that meet their individual dietary needs and requirements, essential for their wellbeing, growth and development.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder takes positive steps to promote safety and keep children safe, and views this as fundamental to their welfare and wellbeing. She provides safe and well-maintained furniture and equipment that meets the varying needs of the children. A good range of age-appropriate resources are stored at child-height, from which children can safely select. This allows them the freedom to make choices and access opportunities within a safe, well-organised environment. She uses her awareness of children's developing abilities to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place. By doing so, she avoids dangerous situations and successfully minimises potential hazards to children through continuous risk assessment.

The childminder is skilled in achieving a good balance between freedom and safe limits. She actively enables children by keeping them safe through being vigilant, but also positively promotes their growing independence. She allows them the opportunity to explore and actively increases their capacity to learn in this way.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. She is aware of her responsibility to protect children and has attended further training to develop her understanding of

child protection procedures in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the welcoming environment. They enthusiastically take part in a varied range of activities and resources. For example, children use puppets to extend their story when using the play mat and small world figures and animals. Resources are readily accessible for children to support their learning. Good opportunities allow children to explore their immediate environment with interest and regularly build on their natural curiosity. Children are confident in their relationships with each other, playing happily together, sharing and taking turns.

The childminder skilfully rotates resources and toys to ensure that children can make choices and develop their independence. Equipment to promote children's physical development is also used, such as scissors, paint brushes and wheeled toys. The childminder's good use of the Birth to three matters framework contributes to improving children's achievements. She has attended a variety of training courses to develop her practice.

The children in her care are extremely settled due to effective communication with parents and regular sharing of information. They benefit from individual routines that are consistent with experiences at home, resulting in them being secure and confident in the surroundings. Children receive lots of cuddles and attention and good levels of interaction increase their sense of wellbeing.

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

The provision is good.

Children take part in a varied range of meaningful activities that promotes a positive view of the world. This increases their awareness and understanding of diversity and their local community. For example they visit the park and library. The childminder meets individual needs effectively, as children follow their own daily routines. She values and respects individuality and is successful in promoting inclusion for all.

Strategies used to manage children's behaviour are consistent and take into account the 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.

Children clearly benefit from the positive partnership the childminder has developed with parents to meet their needs and in response children settle well. Parents receive good quality information about the provision and information is shared effectively to keep parents well informed. This successful partnership promotes children's wellbeing and development.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are secure and at ease within the environment. The space and resources are organised well to enable them to move around freely and gain independence with their daily routines. The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of child development and a high regard for the wellbeing of children. She manages her time and the numbers of children she cares for so that she is able to provide good levels of care and supervision to ensure children are well supported.

All the required documentation is in place, although some lacks the necessary detail. Policies and procedures support the smooth running of the service and parents receive regular useful information. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous inspection, the childminder was asked to keep a written record, signed by parents, of all accidents involving minded children and of all medicines given to children. Record books are now in place although not consistently maintained.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Concerns were raised with Ofsted relating to Standard 12: Partnership with Parents. We asked the provider to investigate and report back to Ofsted. The provider submitted procedures to be followed in case of an emergency or accident. Ofsted is satisfied that the registered person has taken appropriate steps to address the concerns, and the provider remains qualified for registration.

## **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):

- ensure that all records are consistently maintained in order to fully protect

children.

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)