



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	303555
<b>Inspection date</b>	25 May 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Annette Stanger

<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.
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### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1998. She lives with her husband who is also a registered childminder, and their two children aged 16 and 10 years of age. They live in Southowram three miles from Halifax town centre. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children under 8 years and when working with another childminder may care for a total of no more than 10 children under 8 years.

The family have a car to collect children from nursery and school. The family have four cats.

The childminder supports children with special educational needs and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder encourages children to follow suitable hygiene procedures to support and contribute to their good health. She takes appropriate measures to keep them healthy and acts in their best interest when they are ill. Children are cared for in a clean and well-maintained environment and suitable arrangements for pets ensure they do not pose a health risk to children.

Arrangements for first aid and administering medication meet requirements and protect children. However, the childminder needs to update her first aid training in order to maintain a current certificate and ensure she is fully equipped to deal with accidents and emergencies.

The childminder enables children to be healthy and active by providing regular opportunities for them to be physically active. For example, blowing bubbles in the garden for the children to chase and providing a miniature trampoline for the children to independently access.

Mealtimes are an enjoyable part of the day and are used successfully to maximise opportunities for social development and promote children's growing independence. The childminder provides children with a choice of meals and snacks, which are suitably healthy and nutritional. However, she finds it difficult to achieve the balance between allowing them the freedom to choose whilst ensuring they make healthy choices to contribute to their well being, healthy growth and development.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder suitably minimises potential hazards indoors to keep children safe from harm but has not been successful in identifying all potential hazards in the garden. Levels of supervision and support are appropriate to protect children whilst allowing them the freedom to make choices, explore and access opportunities independently. Children are reminded of rules and boundaries to raise their awareness of how to protect themselves and contribute to their own well-being. For example, only one person is allowed to use the trampoline at any one time.

The childminder views risk assessment as a continuous, ever-changing process and uses her knowledge of children's capabilities to provide appropriate levels of support. She also involves parents in contributing towards achieving a safe environment by

placing reminders to lock the garden gate to keep the area secure.

Furniture and equipment are safe and suitably maintained to meet the varying needs of the children.

The childminder is aware of her responsibility to protect children in line with Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder knows the children extremely well and is warm and attentive to their individual needs. Close and caring relationships are successful in settling children and contribute to high levels of confidence and self-esteem. Children are extremely eager and enthusiastic and clearly enjoy their time at the childminders.

Children play a dynamic part in the setting and their achievements, contribution and individuality are all truly valued. The childminder provides stimulating, enjoyable challenges which enable them to acquire new skills. She spends time listening to children and is highly effective in promoting their interest. She uses skilful questioning techniques to extend knowledge and thinking and is successful in making learning an enjoyable experience. The balance between adult and child-led activities is excellent and allows children time to explore independently and at their own pace. They relish this time to fully absorb themselves in activities particularly imaginative, sensory and exploratory experiences. For example, playing with small world resources such as the animal figures, and observing the change to sand when water is added. These high quality interactions and experiences help them to make rapid progress and in response they are inquisitive, confident and keen to express their own ideas.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder is extremely effective in meeting children's individual needs. She treats all children with equal concern, valuing and respecting their individuality. She ensures all children can take part in activities appropriate to their needs and abilities, and is highly successful in promoting an inclusive provision for all.

Children's behaviour is excellent in response to the childminder's positive and consistent approach to behaviour management. Clear and realistic boundaries are established which effectively promote children's understanding of right and wrong. They show high levels of care and concern for each other, play together harmoniously and display very good social skills.

The childminder is very successful in providing a true participative environment that enables children to make choices and decisions and contribute to their own learning.

Highly successful partnerships with parents contribute significantly to the children's well-being and provide continuity of care. This two-way sharing of information and

expertise allows the childminder to continually meet the children's ever-changing needs and keeps both parties well informed. Children clearly benefit from this highly effective partnership and settle well in response which enhances their experience and makes it a positive one.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a very good knowledge and understanding of child development and a high regard for the well-being of children. Required adult: child ratios are met and provide good levels of care and supervision to ensure children are well supported.

She organises the space and resources effectively to enable children and follows individual routines to promote their welfare, care and development. In response, children are secure and confident in their surroundings and are successful in initiating and extending their own play and learning.

All of the required documentation is in place to promote the care and welfare of children. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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.
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## **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):

- build upon existing risk assessments to effectively minimise all potential hazards in the outdoor area, to keep children safe and further improve safety.

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)