



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	302735
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 June 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Sarah Gilpin

<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 1997. She is able to care for 6 children and is presently caring for 3, aged from 2 to 5 years. Children attend on a full and part time basis.

She lives with her husband and three children aged 20, 17 and 10 years. They live in a house in Millhouse Green, near Penistone, Sheffield. The property is close to local schools, shops and other amenities. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and the children access the toilet on first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The family have a dog, one cat, two budgies and a rabbit. There are also some domestic fowl such as geese and ducks. The childminder collects children from the primary school in Penistone. She attends the local carer and toddler group.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and tidy environment. Successful hygiene routines are implemented which help children understand the need to wash hands after touching animals and before meals are eaten. There are clear procedures in place to deal with any accidents involving the children, for example a well stocked first aid is readily available and the childminder has sought to update her first aid qualification.

The childminder ensures that children have regular opportunities to enjoy exercise through planned activities in the garden and when on nature walks in the local area. The younger children have many opportunities to develop their independence and appropriate equipment and resources are provided to support this.

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

The provision is good.

All relevant safety equipment is in place to ensure that children can play safely both inside and outside in the garden. She has a very clear understanding of how to protect children from potential hazards, for example, the childminder effectively sections off the driveway to slow down any passing cars when children are playing outside. Children's awareness of their own safety is increased by sensible discussions about road safety.

A wide selection of toys and resources are available for the children, these are safe and well organised to promote free choice and independence. All equipment is checked regularly to maintain they are in a good condition. Fire safety routines are clear and equipment which is in working order ensures that the childminder and children could easily escape. However, the evacuation routine is not practiced with the children.

The childminder is clear about her responsibilities to protect the children in her care. She uses procedures such as the recording of existing injuries to ensure they are monitored.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and well settled in the care of the childminder. A simple

planned routine ensures the children have a variety of activities and experiences during the day. These include free play and creative activities such as painting and sticking. A particular favourite with the children are the nature walks around the large garden area where children look for insects such as butterflies.

The children enjoy warm and affectionate relationships with the childminder, who is actively involved in their play and encourages them to engage in conversation and chat about what they are doing. Younger children respond well to the close relationships with the childminder. They have a growing self confidence to ask questions and choose from the easily accessible resources with the effective support of the childminder.

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

The provision is good.

The children have free access to a good range of age appropriate resources which are used effectively to promote their awareness of other people and the wider world. The childminder is keen for children to learn to respect one another, to share and play together well and she works hard to promote this.

There are some simple house rules which are implemented successfully and these relate mainly to the safety of the children. Their behaviour is generally very good and they respond well to the gentle reminders from the childminder. There is a behaviour management policy for the childminder and children to follow, however this could be made more positive to reinforce their good behaviour.

The childminder works well in partnership with parents and carers, they comment positively about the care and service she provides. She successfully supports them during key milestones in their children's lives, for example by working together when potty training. Parents receive regular up dates about their children's achievements and the days events.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder is very well organised and as a result the needs of all of the children are met. Toys and resources are well organised and the space in the home is used successfully. All required documentation is in place to support the care of the children. Information is routinely sought from parents to inform the care the childminder provides.

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

At the previous inspection the childminder was asked to improve her procedures in relation to accident and medicine recording and obtaining consent to seek emergency treatment. She now has a clear system in place for the recording of accidents and any medicines she gives to the children, these are routinely shared

with parents. In addition written consent is sought from parents to ensure that children can receive the appropriate treatment as and when needed.

### **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.

### **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):

- develop children's awareness of fire safety through discussion about escape plans
- use more positive terms when dealing with behaviour management.

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)