



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	300194
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 April 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Yvonne Victoria Facey
<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 satisfactory. 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 1983. She lives with her husband and one grown up child. The family live in a detached property in Sheffield. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, this includes conservatory, lounge, dining room, kitchen and downstairs toilet. There is a fully enclosed area for outdoor play.

She is registered to care for a maximum of six children. There are twelve minded children on register who attend on a part time basis.

The childminder has a level three in child care and is a member of the National Childminders Association.

The family have a dog and a cat.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children benefit from eating suitably healthy meals and snacks throughout the day and are offered drinks whenever they are thirsty. The childminder is aware of the children's individual dietary needs through discussions with their parents and their wishes are respected. Children learn aspects of the importance of good personal hygiene through daily routines, such as washing their hands after using the toilet and before meals.

Children have regular opportunities for fresh air and exercise because they often play in the garden where they enjoy using sit and ride toys and using other equipment. They also walk to and from school and go on trips to the park and local woods.

Children's welfare in the event of an accident is not adequately safeguarded because the childminder has not renewed her first aid certificate. Also written permission for seeking emergency medical treatment is not consistent for all children. Children's health and well-being is maintained appropriately through a suitable sickness policy and the management of illnesses. There are also adequate systems in place for recording accidents and administering medication.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to safe and well maintained furniture, equipment and age-appropriate toys and resources, which meet their varying needs and do not compromise their safety. They are kept secure when playing in the garden because the childminder ensures that the outer gate has an additional fastener out of children's reach. She is generally outdoors with them if they are playing, recognising the importance of supervising children, while allowing some freedom and independence dependant on their age and ability.

The childminder takes appropriate safety measures to keep children safe when playing indoors. For example, there is a written fire evacuation procedure. However, this is not practiced with children. Toy boxes and baskets are used to store a good range of toys and resources where children can independently self-select.

Children are suitably protected because the childminder has some understanding of her responsibility to keep them safe if any child protection concerns were raised. However, she has a limited knowledge of some procedures to follow to ensure that appropriate, prompt action can be taken if risks to children are identified. For example, existing injuries are not recorded.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled in the welcoming environment. A broad range of activities and resources are available to the children and they are motivated in their play. Children socialise well with each other and they are beginning to understand the importance of turn taking and

how to play co-operatively. They are becoming independent as they choose between a variety of stimulating activities which appeal to their personal interest.

Children are becoming confident learners and show good concentration skills. They enjoy listening to stories and are confident to choose books for the childminder to read and are enthusiastic as they take part in the story telling. They enjoy songs and rhymes and participate by joining in with the actions. Children have regular opportunities to use mathematical language and talk about shape and colour during everyday routines. For example, they discuss the colours of the rainbow, day and night and the colour of their plates as they wait for their lunch.

Relationships between the childminder and the children are good. Children demonstrate confidence and a sense of belonging as they move freely around the home and communicate well with each other and the childminder. The childminder helps the children to develop their all round skills, praising and encouraging their achievements.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder uses appropriate strategies to deal with children's behaviour that is appropriate to their age and abilities. The children behave well and respond positively to the childminders praise and encouragement.

The childminder takes into account the parents wishes and verbally shares information on a daily basis about their children. She generally maintains the required information necessary to meet the children's needs. During initial visits the childminder discusses the children's individual needs with parents, such as their diet and sleep patterns.

The children have access to a reasonable selection of resources which promote a positive image of the world in which they live through books and discussions with the childminder. They learn appropriately about the wider community during outings within the local community.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare and enjoyment is promoted by the appropriate organisation and flexible routines. Space and resources are organised effectively to successfully meet the needs of all children. They participate actively within a safe environment allowing them to develop and extend their confidence and independence. Children's experiences are improved, as the childminder accesses relevant training opportunities to improve her practice. For example, she holds an NVQ level three in child care.

The childminder has the required documentation in place. However, this is not consistent for all children in her care.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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

The last inspection recommended the childminder considered ways of expanding the range of resources which reflect positive images and devise a system to inform parents how they may raise a complaint or concern.

The childminder has suitably extended her range of resources, which now reflect positive images. A complaints policy is now in place, although it needs to include new procedures. These contribute to the care and welfare of children attending the setting.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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 satisfactory. 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 first aid training is up to date
- ensure required records relating to all children are fully maintained and easily accessible at all times
- develop further knowledge and understanding of local child protection procedures and guidance
- ensure the fire evacuation procedures are practiced.

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)