



## Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | EY296246        |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 19 January 2006 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Ingrid Pine     |

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| <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 2005. She lives with her family in Robin Hood, a village between Leeds and Wakefield. The whole of the ground floor and one nominated upstairs bedroom are used for childminding purposes. There is a secure garden to the rear, suitable for outdoor play. There are shops, parks, childcare groups and schools nearby.

The childminder is registered to provide care for four children. At present there are two children on roll.

The childminder has relevant childcare qualifications and is part 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 warm, pristine home where they learn the importance of good hygiene practice and personal care. The childminder is very aware that her minded children are very young and takes all necessary precautions to reduce possible risks of cross infection. She is pro-active and vigilant in ensuring that all surfaces are cleaned thoroughly. Baby equipment and toys are regularly sterilised and there are appropriate procedures in place for nappy changing. For example, all children have their own individual changing equipment and creams. There are good arrangements in place to care for children who are ill. These are discussed with parents and are part of her written agreements. The childminder is trained in giving first aid and has appropriate permission and records in place for the correct administration of medicines.

Children are well nourished and thrive. The childminder has a very good understanding of food nutrition and provides a varied and well balanced diet, as discussed with parents. Children enjoy meals that are all prepared from fresh ingredients and offer healthy options. Drinks of juice, milk or water are available at all times.

The childminder ensures that young babies enjoy regular fresh air. They are often taken to the local park and country parks in the area. Indoors they are encouraged to use their senses and develop their eye and hand coordination using a range of appropriate activities such as feely books, activity centres, musical toys, shape sorters and playing games such as clap-a-cake and peek-a-boo. Space is organised well to give young babies opportunities to roll about and develop spatial awareness and exercise their bodies.

Young babies emotional well-being is fostered. They play, sleep and rest according to their individual needs and are happy and secure in a loving and caring atmosphere that mirrors their own familiar surroundings.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very safe environment. The childminder is vigilant about allowing visitors into her house and checks all identification. She ensures that her home is secure and that appropriate equipment is used according to the age and needs of the children. Toys and resources are scrupulously clean and freely accessible. They are stored and presented at low level so that children can safely choose their own resources. These resources are in very good condition and of high quality.

Children learn about safety and being responsible. They are reminded to be careful when selecting toys and not to climb as they might hurt themselves. The outside garden area is very safe and secure and the childminder has effective procedures in place when taking children on outings. Young babies are well supported when sitting on the floor and toys are put nearby so they can reach them safely and easily. They sleep comfortably and safely, and are frequently monitored.

The childminder has a good understanding of how to protect children. She is aware of the signs and symptoms of possible abuse and knows the appropriate procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child. She has accessed appropriate training and is aware of the guidance contained in the booklet 'What to do if you think a child is being abused'. She takes her responsibility of protecting children very seriously and ensures that parents are aware of this.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed in the childminder's home. She is very aware of how young babies develop their skills. Consequently they are keen to learn as they are offered lots of play experiences that are stimulating and challenging. For example, babies laugh and giggle as the childminder expressively tells a story about big and little tickles, complete with actions. She encourages them to look at simple picture books depicting babies' faces and then uses a mirror for them to discover their own.

The childminder is interested in each individual child and spends time finding out what they like to play with and about their backgrounds. She has created a family album so that they can identify their parents and extended family and plans activities that relate to their family background. Children benefit from a range of stimulating activities that challenge them to develop their learning skills through play and fun.

The childminder uses her time effectively, playing with them and encouraging their imagination. Children learn to do things for themselves and gain confidence, knowing that an adult is close by, ready to support and help if necessary.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued and treated as part of the family. This helps them to feel good about themselves and builds up their self-esteem. Very good, warm caring relationships between the childminder and young babies are evident. She ensures that the individual needs of all children in her care are well met. For example, she has found out about the babies' extended families and produced a booklet for them to use as a resource.

The childminder is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and inclusion. She has resources that introduce children to other faiths, cultures and abilities. For example books, jigsaws and a range of small world play people.

The childminder speaks softly and uses music to create a relaxing atmosphere. This helps to keep children calm and behave appropriately. Children respond well to the clear and simple instructions given and she promotes and encourages good behaviour through good role modelling and example. Children are secure and very happy in her care. They are encouraged to share and take turns as she includes them all in activities such as joint story time when they all cuddle up together looking at appropriate interesting and fun books.

The childminder works in very close partnership with parents. Strong and trusting relationships are being formed and parents have clear information, both verbal and written, about the setting and their children's progress. The childminder shares information on the Birth to three matters framework and her planning and choice of activities reflect the good practice promoted within that document. Parents comment extremely positively about the care and attention their children receive.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder is suitably qualified and uses her training well to plan and provide exciting and challenging opportunities for children. She shows a commitment towards furthering her own personal development and extending her knowledge of childcare through accessing relevant material such as the Birth to three matters framework and attending relevant courses and workshops.

The childminder keeps her childminding numbers low so that she can spend effective one to one time with the children. This helps to build up strong and trusting relationships and ensures that children feel secure and confident with their carer. The childminder has developed a very good organised play area where children feel at home and which offers a wealth of exciting learning opportunities.

All required documentation to support the care of children and to comply with regulations is in place. Records are clear, up-to-date, easily accessible and stored securely. They include detailed information on the children's needs and significant milestones as well as some policies and procedures. A photographic record of young children's progress is kept and shared regularly with parents. 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 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 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):

- practise and record emergency evacuation procedures
- further develop written policies and procedures.

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)