

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | EY330533      |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 08 April 2008 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | June Rice     |
| <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 was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and two children aged nine and five years, in a village on the outskirts of Wakefield. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and includes a dedicated playroom. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time, and is currently minding three children for a variety of sessions. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group, and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because the childminder successfully implements procedures to ensure the environment, toys and equipment are suitable for use. For example, she regularly cleans kitchen surfaces and floors, cleans out the playroom weekly and carries out a monthly cleanse of toys and equipment. Children's health is safeguarded satisfactorily because the childminder implements suitable procedures when cleaning nappies. For example, she washes her hands

before and after changing nappies, uses individual changing mats, wraps and disposes of the nappy immediately. She generally uses disposable aprons to help prevent cross infection, although this is not consistent. Children are excluded if they are infectious in order to protect others. They are made comfortable if they become ill and parents are informed. Children are learning to understand simple good health and hygiene practices through daily routines. For example, children are reminded to flush the toilet and wash their hands. They wash their hands before meals, and are provided paper towels to further reduce the risk of cross infection. Children learn about healthy living and enjoy physical activity through their enjoyment of daily walks to school, and regular outings where they enjoy using physical play equipment. Children benefit from eating a healthy, suitably balanced diet of light snacks, fresh fruit and lunch. Parents are kept verbally informed of what children have eaten and clear information is shared about children's likes, dislikes and any allergies.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit because the childminder has taken appropriate precautions to ensure the environment, toys and equipment are safe. For example, security prevents children leaving unobserved and unauthorised persons entering. Children are protected from low sockets, windows and radiators, and there are no hazardous materials stored in low cupboards. Children use suitable and safe equipment which is checked for the BS EN safety standards, cleaned and checked regularly. Children learn to keep themselves safe through their general routine. For example, when walking home from school they discuss road safety and stranger danger, and they tidy toys away when they have finished so they do not trip over them. Children are introduced to the emergency evacuation through discussion. However, they do not practise the procedure. Children are well protected because the childminder has a very clear understanding of the local child protection procedures. She has attended appropriate training and clearly demonstrates the confidence to put procedures into practice if necessary.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit because the childminder effectively plans and provides a good range of activities and play opportunities. For example, craft activities, baking, role play and lots of visits to the library, local parks and play centres. Children are beginning to develop confidence and good self-esteem through the childminders support and encouragement. She constantly talks to them and acknowledges their attempts at communication. Children are happy and settled in their environment, they sit close to the childminder as they play and respond happily to her interaction. For example, she encourages their listening skills as they rattle a shaker, listen to musical toys. They enjoy individual attention and listen intently to a short story sat on her knee. However, there are limited opportunities for children under three years to explore natural materials and use their different senses. Children are learning to socialise and interact with their own peer group through visits to parent and toddler groups, and visits to friends. Children show lots of interest and take time to explore the toys and equipment that they independently access. Children thoroughly enjoy the playroom, they find it very interesting and enjoy role play. For example, they play with the kitchen and accessories, then carefully Hoover the floor. Children are encouraged to enjoy physical activities and enjoy movement to popular rhymes and songs.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for by a childminder who works closely with parents to meet children's individual needs, and to ensure they are fully included. Children are treated with respect, they are treated as individuals and receive appropriate support. For example, clear systems are in place to ensure a good exchange of information between parents and carer. Children become aware of their wider society through the every day use of toys and equipment that effectively promote equality. They are able to independently choose what they wish to play with, there is no gender bias with regard to toys and games, and children enjoy playing with toys and equipment that reflect positive images of diversity, such as, ethnic dolls, books and dressing up clothes. Children are finding their voice, they shake their head when they don't wish to join in and raise their voice in disagreement. Children are well behaved and young children are learning to understand responsible behaviour through the clear expectations of the childminder. For example, they are learning not to climb on furniture and to put toys away when they have finished playing with them. Partnership with parents is good. They are provided verbal information about how their children are progressing and clear information about how the setting works. For example, policies and procedures, daily routines, activities and menu examples.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are well protected and cared for by a childminder with a good knowledge and understanding of child development. She has appropriate childcare qualifications and since registration has attended training in first aid, food hygiene, child protection and the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children benefit because the childminder demonstrates a high regard for their well-being, and she works closely with parents to ensure she meets their individual needs effectively. Children benefit from an environment that is very well organised, she uses her time and resources well to ensure they enjoy a varied day that includes regular outings and opportunities to socialise with other children. The childminder uses records effectively and all required documentation is in place.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. 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 an emergency evacuation and develop children's understanding of the need to evacuate quickly in an emergency
- develop opportunities for children under three years to freely explore natural materials and use all their senses.

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)