

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 401358  
**Inspection date** 08 May 2007  
**Inspector** Shirley Maynard

**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since June 1994. She lives with her husband and three children aged six years, 14 years and one who is an adult. They live in a semi-detached cottage in a quiet residential area in Goldsborough, near Knaresborough, which is close to shops and within walking distance of local parks. The ground floor and bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered for five children at any one time and is currently caring for one child, who attends on a full time basis. The childminder attends a toddler group once a week 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 demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of appropriate hygiene practices and the need to ensure children wash their hands before and after meals and after visiting the bathroom. However, minded children use the family hand towel and so the risk of

cross-contamination is not minimised. The children's good health is positively promoted as the childminder has all the required documentation and consents in place. Furthermore, the recording of accidents and medication meets with the requirements of the National Standards and protects children. All details are shared with parents and signed by them.

Children are satisfactorily nourished as the childminder provides healthy snacks and a light lunch. They regularly enjoy fresh fruit and smoothies. The childminder supplies juice at meal times. However, neither juice nor fresh drinking water are readily available throughout the day and, consequently, the children cannot monitor their own needs for a drink.

Young children's needs are mostly met because the childminder follows the routine from home, therefore, children are cared for in a consistent manner. Their physical needs are satisfactorily developed by regular outdoor play in the secure back garden and regular walks.

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

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for in a warming environment where areas are generally clean and well maintained. They benefit from a dedicated playroom and, therefore, have a sense of belonging as they play freely. They make choices from suitable and appropriate toys and equipment including construction bricks, small world, jigsaws and dressing up clothes. They learn about some safe practices because the childminder discusses with them, for example, why not to run in the house.

Some safety aspects have been addressed within the home, however, the entrance to the front of the property is not consistently locked when minded children are present. As a result, the premises are not adequately secure in ensuring that children are unable to leave unsupervised, thus impacting on their welfare.

Children's well-being is adequately safeguarded because the childminder understands her role in child protection and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary, based on national and local guidance.

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

The provision is good.

Children are provided with an extensive range of age appropriate resources which support their play and cover all areas of development and include mark making, books, games and small construction. The childminder sits on the floor with them as they engage in conversation. She uses good questioning to support their enjoyment and learning, for example, 'what colour is this?' or 'which is the triangle?' This results in the children developing their confidence and self esteem by having positive relationships with the childminder and interaction that is very beneficial to them. Children are able to socialise outside the home as they thoroughly enjoy being taken to the local toddler group and this allows them to experience new environments.

Children make choices and their decisions making is promoted as they access the extensive range of toys and games, which are stored in well labelled boxes and are easily assessable to them. Children are very interested as they make jigsaws and develop their hand-eye coordination. The childminder is on hand to sensitively encourage them. She uses her knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to inform her practice and provide stimulating activities for the children. For instance, the childminder prepares regular craft activities in advance, including

vegetable printing, sticky picture and painting. The children are very interested in what they are doing and present as happy, confident children who are having fun and learning new skills.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment where parents are fully included to ensure individual needs are met. The childminder has a very good understanding of equality of opportunity for all children, for example, in providing non gender biased play and learning activities. Children also learn about people's differences in a positive manner because there are many toys and a wide variety of other equipment available to them all the time. The childminder uses books and periodicals, such as the 'what I believe' book, to inform her own knowledge and understanding. The children have recently celebrated Chinese New year and thoroughly enjoyed a meal of noodles which they ate with chop sticks.

Children are learning to take responsibility for their own behaviour as the childminder sets appropriate boundaries and guidelines which include no jumping on the furniture, respect the toys and be kind to each other. She frequently uses praise, such as 'clever girl, well done', and offers good explanations as to why behaviour is unacceptable. The childminder ensures younger children are occupied and follow a flexible routine to enable them to benefit from a structure to assist them in feeling safe and secure.

The children greatly benefit from being cared for in an environment where parents are fully involved and policies and procedures shared with them. The childminder provides regular verbal feedback and this ensures parents are fully informed of the care their child receives whilst with her. A comprehensive range of information is displayed in the playroom about the childminder and her practice, for example, training certificates, behaviour policy, certificate of registration and what to do if you have a complaint.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder demonstrates some understanding of the National Standards, however, she is not sufficiently aware of all her responsibilities and overall this impacts on positive outcomes for children in certain areas. The childminder has not ensured all persons living in the household over the age of 16 undergo checks, including a criminal record check. As a result, parents are not fully assured and children's welfare is not entirely protected.

Children benefit from being cared for in an environment where the childminder organises her time suitably to ensure that children receive a balanced range of indoor and outdoor activities during the day. The resources are stored safely in the dedicated playroom and are readily available. Children make decisions about their play and, as a consequence, they become independent learners.

The children's needs are mostly met because the childminder has some of the regulatory documents in place which are well maintained, up to date and available for inspection. For instance, the daily register clearly demonstrates children's actual times of attendance.

Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to enhance her knowledge of childcare by referring to the Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage. The childminder has made some progress in accessing training to improve the outcomes for children she currently cares for. As she is only caring for younger children at present, she has updated her knowledge and understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and is using this to inform the activities she provides for this age group.

## Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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

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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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that there are effective procedures in place for checking that all adults in the household are appropriately vetted
- ensure the premises are fully secure and children are not able to leave them unsupervised.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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)