



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY264714
Inspection date	16 August 2006
Inspector	Yvonne Victoria Facey
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.

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 was registered as a childminder in September 2003. She lives with her husband and their three children aged 14 years, eight years and five years in Sheffield.

The downstairs of the family home is used mainly for childminding, and children have access to the first floor for use of the bathroom and children's bedroom. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. She currently cares for one child on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment that is clean and tidy. The childminder promotes good hygiene practices to prevent the spread of infection and keep children healthy. For example, she uses anti-bacterial spray on surfaces and children are learning the importance of good personal care. There is a clear procedure in place for the exclusion of sick children to reduce the spread of infection which is shared with parents.

Children enjoy a balanced range of activities, which contributes to their good health and physical development. They enjoy outdoor activities including regular visits to the park, local walks and use of appropriate equipment.

Children receive nutritious meals and snacks in accordance with parent's wishes. For example, they enjoy fruit, toast and sandwiches. The childminder ensures that children are regularly given drinks as necessary. Meal times are social occasions where children sit and relax. The childminder has a sound awareness of children's likes, dislikes and any allergies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a welcoming and child friendly home where risks have been minimised. They move freely around the home, indoors and out in safety, developing their independence. Children are developing their understanding of how to keep themselves safe because the childminder gently reminds them of potential hazards. For example, explaining to children about being careful when outdoors and taking care when climbing. Equipment is organised in boxes for children to access easily. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder shows a positive regard for the children's well-being. The childminder has a responsible attitude towards safety issues and takes effective measures to keep children safe. For example, she ensures that appropriate equipment, such as socket covers and safety gates are in place and that hazardous substances are locked away. However, there is no emergency evacuation plan in place. The childminder demonstrates a sound knowledge of child protection issues and has all appropriate documentation in place for recording accidents and medication.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children make suitable choices from a balanced range of toys and creative materials suitable for their ages and abilities. Children benefit from the childminder's support and encouragement during their play and she has a sound understanding of children's developmental needs. The childminder talks to the children and plays alongside them to extend and progress their learning.

For example, she questions them about colour, shape and number when playing with the play dough.

Children establish good relationships with the childminder and other children, have fun and demonstrate good self-esteem. Children are confident with the routine of the day, and are relaxed and engaged in their play. They enjoy imaginative play, outdoor activities and going to the toddler group where they are able to socialise with other children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder uses positive and consistent strategies to manage children's behaviour and as a result, the children are happy and secure in their environment. Children behave well and receive lots of praise and encouragement. They begin to understand right from wrong through simple explanations from the childminder. For instance, children are encouraged to share and take turns. The childminder is aware that some children may have additional needs and ensures all children are included in the activities provided.

Children feel at home and show a sense of belonging because they are familiar with routines, and are at ease with each other and the childminder. Children are becoming aware of the wider world because the childminder has an adequate range of toys which promote a positive view of a diverse society. The childminder works in partnership with parents to provide appropriate care for the children, and information is shared with parents on a daily basis. There is a complaints policy, although this is not up to date to fully inform parents of the correct procedures to follow.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare and enjoyment is promoted by the generally good organisation and flexible routines. Space and resources are organised to meet the needs of all children. This ensures that children are able to make choices in their play and participate actively within a safe environment. However, the health of the children is not fully considered as the childminder has not up dated her first aid certificate. This is a breach of regulations. Children are relaxed in a child orientated environment where they are comfortable and feel at home.

Information is shared with parents to keep them informed about the service provided and most policies and procedures are in place to suitably promote the welfare, care and learning of children. However, there is no written parental consent for seeking any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment. The childminder has organised her documentation in order that it is readily available for inspection. All children's details contain the required information and contracts are held with parents.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection recommended the childminder considered ways of expanding the range of resources which reflect positive images and develop consistent strategies to manage children's behaviour. The childminder has suitably extended her range of resources, which now reflect positive images and has consistent strategies in place to manage children's behaviour. These contribute to the care and welfare of children attending the setting.

It was also recommended that the garden is fully secure and written permission is obtained from parents before administering medication. These recommendations have been addressed appropriately. This contributes to the health and safety of the 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
- review the complaints policy and procedures to ensure they are in line with requirements implemented in October 2005
- ensure written parental permission is requested, at the time of the placement, to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future
- ensure an emergency escape plan is devised and practised with children.

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