



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	317773
Inspection date	03 August 2006
Inspector	Lynn Masterman
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 has been registered since 1988. She lives with her husband and two adult daughters. They live in a small village near Doncaster. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have a cat.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding eight children under eight and three children over eight years old. They attend on a part time basis. She takes and collects children from the local primary schools. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing a clear understanding of personal hygiene. They are familiar with the daily routine and learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. For example, children are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times throughout the day. This helps to promote healthy practices, prevents cross-infection and contributes to their personal care and comfort. Appropriate procedures ensure that sick children are cared for sensitively, and that the risk of infection to other children is minimal.

Children benefit from a varied and balanced diet. They have the opportunity to make choices and are encouraged to access low sugar foods and drink. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and children's individual choices to provide a nutritious and suitable diet. She recognises the importance of children receiving a regular intake of fluid, and they are offered and are able to access drinks easily.

Children have access to regular physical exercise to develop their physical skills and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Appropriate use is made of the outdoor play area and children have access to a variety of suitable outdoor play equipment; such as bikes, scooters, skipping ropes, bats and balls. This helps to promote their well-being and a positive attitude to exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure environment, where most risks are identified and appropriate steps are taken to minimise potential hazards. The childminder has appropriate fire evacuation procedures, which are displayed and routinely practised with children. However, the fire blanket is not appropriately sited and some fire exits are not free from obstruction. This compromises children's safety.

Children are well supervised both inside and outside of the premises. The childminder makes appropriate use of opportunities to remind children of their own safety. For example, they are encouraged not to run in the home and are given clear explanations of the consequences of their actions. This helps children to be aware of their safety and that of others. They are beginning to become aware of road safety and know how to cross roads safely.

Children have access to a good range of play resources and equipment, which are easily accessible, well-maintained and meet the required safety standards. For example, play resources are checked on a regular basis to ensure that they are safe and do not pose a risk to children. Play resources are stored at child height, which promotes children's independence, confidence and gives them the opportunity to make informed choices about their play.

The childminder has a good understanding of her responsibility for the protection and care of children. Sound knowledge of the procedures and the use of relevant documentation for child protection ensure children are safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have access to a warm and welcoming environment, where they are happy and confident. They are encouraged to be independent, make informed choices and have fun through play. They have the opportunity to access a good range of well-organised activities, which are purposeful and contribute to their global development. For example, the childminder found a moth. The children were asked to look at the colour, shape and size of the moth. They described the moth's facial features as bushy and furry. This helps children to develop an awareness of nature and the environment.

The childminder responds to children's requests and interests by providing activities that contribute to promoting their creativity and imagination. For example, children make trains and houses from junk modelling. They are able to self-select from a good range of creative materials and make their own decisions. The childminder has a good understanding of children's development. She recognises children need to be successful in their achievements and have the opportunity to be well challenged through play. For example, children are provided with varying levels of problem solving toys such as jigsaws, which help to promote their thinking skills.

The childminder has a positive approach to the needs of young children and makes good use of the Birth to three matters framework. She provides opportunities to build on children's existing skills and develop new ones. For example, children dig in the garden using metal spoons and containers. This helps to develop their sensory and exploration skills through natural materials.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and content and show a strong sense of belonging. This is due to the very warm and caring approach of the childminder. She obtains appropriate information from parents to help children settle in her care. This shows that the childminder is aware of the children's emotional needs and aims to make the transition from home to the setting a secure and positive experience. Children are familiar with daily routines and have formed good relationships with the childminder and her family. She gives them her full attention when they speak to her. She talks to them about events that they have enjoyed at home, which they recall with enthusiasm. This results in children being independent and feeling safe and secure, through which they develop self-confidence, a belief in themselves and healthy self-esteem.

Children are well behaved and are polite in response to the expectations of the childminder. They are beginning to understand right from wrong and have a clear understanding of acceptable behaviour in the home. For example, they know and understand that the house rules help to keep everyone safe and make the time spent together happy and fun.

The children have access to a satisfactory range of play resources, which promote their awareness of equality of opportunity and diversity. The childminder makes appropriate uses of resources and discussion to develop their understanding through play. For example, children make animal

masks and money envelopes to celebrate the Chinese New Year. This helps to foster children's awareness of the wider world.

Successful relationships with parents ensures that the childminder has a sound working knowledge and understanding of the needs of individual children. She effectively shares information verbally on a daily basis. This positive partnership clearly contributes to the children's overall well-being.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare and development are appropriately supported by the childminder. They feel at home and are comfortable in the well organised environment. Child ratios are maintained to ensure that children receive appropriate levels of care and attention. They move around freely and confidently, initiating and extending their own play and learning. Children gain independence through the childminder's encouragement and support.

Most statutory documentation meets the requirements of the National Standards, however, there are no systems in place for the recording of complaints. The childminder gives a high regard to confidentiality and all documentation is stored securely. There is a satisfactory range of policies and procedures, which are shared effectively with parents to promote outcomes for children. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children. The childminder now holds an up to date first aid certificate. This contributes to the safety and well-being of all children.

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 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 the fire blanket is appropriately sited and fire exits are free from obstruction at all times
- devise a system for recording complaints.

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