

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	400864
Inspection date	05 February 2008
Inspector	Katy Elizabeth Wynn

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 1999. She lives with her mother in Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. The children have access to all of the ground floor, which consists of a living room, dining room, kitchen and conservatory, with the additional use of the toilet and bathroom on the first floor. A secure rear garden provides a safe outdoor play area. Household pets include a dog, cockateil and guinea pigs.

The childminder is a qualified nursery nurse and has experience of working with children with disabilities and learning difficulties. The childminder has four children on roll. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, well-maintained and clean home. The childminder collects information from the parents regarding medication and allergies to safeguard children's health. The childminder encourages children's independence in toileting and they are beginning to

understand the reasons behind the hygiene routines they follow. For example, children know they must wash their hands after using the toilet to stop the spread of germs. The childminder has written parental permission for seeking necessary emergency medical advice or treatment and has an up to date first aid certificate. Therefore, children are fully protected in the event of an accident or emergency.

Children are offered regular drinks and food. They bring their own packed lunch from home and the childminder offers a range of snacks, which include fruit. Children's dietary needs are discussed with parents and recorded. Children make satisfactory progress in their physical development and are provided with opportunities for physical play, through planned indoor and outdoor activities. This helps children develop the confidence to enjoy moving with control and use their bodies in various ways. Children practise skills such as balancing and running as they play with the resources in the garden and enjoy daily walks with the childminder's dog. They use a range of materials to extend their physical development, such as construction materials and puzzles.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe environment where risks have been identified and minimised. The childminder safeguards the children by implementing good procedures so children can move safely and confidently in the childminding area. For example, there are fireguards, electric points have safety covers and hazards are removed. Children are protected with good security at entrances to the premises. The rear garden has high boundary fences and a locked gate. There are appropriately placed smoke detectors and a fire blanket in the kitchen. However, an emergency fire evacuation plan has not been devised or practised, to ensure clear procedures are carried out in the event of an emergency situation.

Children have independent access to a good range of equipment and play provision. All equipment seen is in good order, clean and well maintained. There is a stimulating variety of toys that meet children's developmental needs and challenge their learning, for example, construction materials and puzzles. Equipment and play materials are clean and in a good state of repair.

The childminder has a sound awareness of her responsibility to safeguard children in her care and is confident to deal with any safeguarding issues. She has all the necessary support documents in place to follow correct procedures in the event of any concerns. Child protection training has been completed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children really enjoy the activities that the childminder provides for them. She takes them out daily to local parks, shops and places of interest. Children have a varied range of toys and resources that they are able to independently choose from in the sitting room. The childminder sits on the floor with the children and joins in their imaginative play as a child pretends to walk their dog with the toy dog and lead. The childminder extends the play by asking questions and is skilful to recognise when children become bored or frustrated with their current activity, therefore fully supporting their individual needs.

The children have a lovely relationship with the childminder as she interacts with them; they often stop play to give her a cuddle or a kiss and the childminder responds appropriately to them. The childminder does not formally plan activities but she ensures they enjoy a varied range of activities covering all areas of learning. The childminder encourages children to use their own ideas as they draw and colour. Children's artwork is praised, which shows that the childminder values their achievements and this builds the children's self-esteem successfully.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides some activities and resources to increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. For example, the children have access to books about the wider world. The childminder is a positive role model and encourages children to respect each other, share toys and have manners. Children's individual needs are sensitively fostered and all children are included and valued. Children generally behave well and are beginning to have an awareness of boundaries and acceptable behaviour. The childminder gives the children positive encouragement and attention, which impacts directly on their confidence and security.

The childminder is developing a working relationship with parents. She directly includes parents in their children's care and development, by a regular exchange of information through daily verbal feedback. Parents' information contains official documentation. However, parents do not have information about the procedure to follow should they wish to make a complaint and the Ofsted poster is not displayed. Therefore, parents cannot take appropriate action if they are not satisfied with the childminding service.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are relaxed and secure in a well-organised environment and receive good help and support from the childminder. The play area is utilised well with ample floor space. Some documentation is in place to promote the welfare, care and learning of children and takes into account parents' wishes and the individual needs of the children, so they feel safe and secure. For example, record sheets contain information collected from parents about children's individual needs so they are cared for appropriately.

The childminder operates a flexible service in order to be able to fully support the children and their families. She offers a range of hours and times to fit in with parents' work commitments. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to provide parents with details of activities provided through the day. The childminder has developed parental partnership through improving communication. She now ensures she talks to parents daily, informing them of their child's day and activities they have participated in.

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to fix a smoke detector on each level of the house. Following this recommendation the fire authority have visited the property and located a smoke detector on each level of the property, ensuring that children are adequately safeguarded.

Finally, at the last inspection the childminder was required to obtain permission for emergency medical treatment. Following this recommendation the childminder has ensured that all parents have signed the contracts giving her permission to seek medical advice and treatment, ensuring parents' wishes are respected.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 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):

- devise and practise an emergency escape plan
- ensure that parents have information about the procedure to follow should they wish to make a complaint and display the Ofsted poster that contains the address and telephone number of the regulator.

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