



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	400967
Inspection date	22 August 2006
Inspector	Rosemary Beyer
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 good. 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 1996. She lives with her family in a four bedroom house in a quiet part of Brayton near Selby. The home is within walking distance of the local school, nursery, playgroup, toddler group and play area. She is registered to care for six children under eight and currently has three children under five on the roll. She also provides occasional care for school age children. All the children attend part time. Children have the use of the ground floor of the house and also the small bedroom upstairs for sleeping. There is a secure rear garden with both grass and patio areas.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for on clean, well maintained premises, where the established effective hygiene practice prevents the spread of infection. The childminder uses antibacterial cleaner and hand wash to support this. Children know they need to wash their hands to get rid of germs, and older children do so without reminding. Parents provide toothbrushes and toothpaste if they wish their children to clean their teeth after meals.

Meal times are a social time, where children sit together at the table to eat. They have food provided by the childminder or brought from home depending on parents' wishes. They learn about the need to eat a healthy balanced diet, including plenty of fruit and vegetables. Children also have a multi-cultural diet to ensure they have familiar tastes and also try foods from other cultures. Any special dietary needs such as allergies or religious requirements are respected and considered when planning the menu.

A written sick child policy is made available to parents, who know they will be contacted if their child is taken ill. Children's medication and any accidents are recorded appropriately, with parents' signatures to acknowledge them. The childminder also has written permission to seek medical help or advice in an emergency

Children have fresh air each day, weather permitting, both in the garden or when walking in the locality. If the weather is good, activities are taken into the garden where children have space to move around freely. Visits to the park are also popular. They know they need exercise and fresh air to stay fit and healthy. The children have sleep or rest either on the settee, in the playroom or in the travel cot in the small bedroom.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises and garden are safe and secure, with children able to use appropriate furniture and resources to meet their needs. Each day the childminder checks the toys and equipment to ensure they are safe and clean, with any which are damaged, discarded or removed for repair. The sandpit is covered when not in use and the sand replaced on a regular basis. A cover is used for the rotary drier when it is not bearing washing.

The doors are kept locked when minding, however, the keys are easily accessible to children. Fire safety equipment is available, with socket covers in place, a fire guard fitted, and the smoke alarms and fire blanket checked regularly. An evacuation plan has been devised with which the children are familiar. Children do not have access to the kitchen when the childminder is preparing food.

Children learn about road safety when off the premises. They know they need to keep away from the kerb and walk carefully when near cars. They are also learning to use equipment safely,

taking turns on the slide and using toys carefully. They play well together as they know they hurt each other if they play roughly.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child protection with a written policy available for parents to see, although the contact and referral details need to be updated. Informing Ofsted of any referrals or allegations is included in the procedure.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are settled, happy and comfortable with the childminder. They enter the setting enthusiastically and ask for resources which are not immediately available. They talk happily with her and with each other when playing.

Children have access to a wide range of resources and toys which meet their individual needs. The activities are planned informally before children arrive, but then guided by their wishes, likes and interests. They take resources outside when the weather is fine, and enjoy having the whole of the rear garden to play. When playing inside they can select resources safely and independently from shelves and boxes.

The children play well together, take turns when playing games such as dominoes, and cooperate when using the Lego or construction toys. They enjoy using the music player to dance, and put on tapes independently. Their physical development is also fostered well with the range of outside toys available.

While playing with the children the childminder helps them to learn to count, recognise colours and develop their vocabulary. Craft activities and baking are very popular, and the children also enjoy stories, using books correctly and anticipating what will happen. Children enjoy the activities, which provide challenge and stimulation in a very positive atmosphere, with encouragement and praise when they have achieved their objectives

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder keeps parents informed verbally about their child's care each day. They are very happy with the care she provides and know their children are safe, settled and comfortable with her. The open door policy, whereby parents are free to speak to the childminder, or drop in at any time is reassuring. The children also enjoy being with the childminder who they say looks after them very well. Parents are aware of the written complaints procedure which is made available to them, although they have had no complaints in the past. The policy file is available for parents to see if they are interested.

Children's care needs are made clear by the use of contracts and information sheets which are completed when they start to attend. This also ensures they are cared for in line with parents' wishes. Any special requirements are considered whether dietary, cultural or due to religious reasons. Records are stored securely and confidentiality respected. Children with learning difficulties or disabilities are made welcome, in line with the written policy. The childminder is

willing to undertake training to care for children if she and the parents agree that the child's needs could be met in the setting.

The children behave well, developing cooperation when playing and learning to take turns, for example, when playing dominoes. Clear house rules are in place for the children's guidance. They are encouraged to share and have good manners, with the childminder providing a good role model. Strategies are in place to combat bullying and parents are involved if the children have problems behaving while in the childminder's care.

Children's knowledge of diversity is fostered through the use of the wide range of toys and resources available. Books and toys show children of different ethnic groups, and crayons with a range of skin tones are also there to use. Children enjoy trying different foods, which helps develop their knowledge of other countries and cultures. The children are all able to use the full range of equipment with no activities stereotyped due to gender.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a safe and stimulating environment for the children. She has the necessary recording and information in place to ensure the setting is managed safely and efficiently, with a policy file available for parents. Records are stored securely and confidentiality respected. A register is maintained with times of attendance recorded, and children are well supervised.

The childminder keeps to her conditions of registration, with the certificate on display in the kitchen. She does not, however, have a system of recording complaints in place. 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 develop her child protection policy and procedure to include the action she would take in the event of allegations being made against her and her family. She was also asked to develop resources to promote equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice.

Since the last inspection, the protection of children has been enhanced by the development of the childminder's child protection policy to take account of any allegation made against her or her family members. They are also able to learn about diversity through the use of a widened range of resources including books, food and toys. They are given positive images of people and have coloured crayons to match different skin colours for art work. All children are able to use the full range of appropriate toys and resources, with no gender stereotyping.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report 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 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):

- ensure keys are removed from locked doors but readily available in case of an emergency
- ensure child protection referral and contact details are up to date
- develop a recording system for complaints from parents.

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