



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300080
Inspection date	11 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 has been registered since 1996. She lives in Sheffield with her husband and their two daughters. The ground floor rooms, one bedroom and bathroom upstairs are used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden which is available for outdoor play. The family has a dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children. There are two minded children on roll who attend on a part time basis. The childminder is a foster parent and she has a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 3 in childcare.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, well-maintained home. The childminder takes suitable steps to reduce the spread of infection through using appropriate hygiene practices. For example, she makes sure all areas of the home are appropriately clean and follows effective procedures for changing nappies. Children learn simple hygiene practice as the childminder reminds them about the importance of hand washing and uses wet wipes for babies. The childminder follows her policy, which she shares with parents, to ensure all children are protected from infection. For example, parents do not bring children who are unwell and they collect their children if they become ill at the childminder's home.

Arrangements for meals and drinks are negotiated with parents so that children's individual dietary needs are met. Children bring packed lunches and drinks from home. The childminder has a suitable understanding of healthy eating and shares this with parents as necessary.

Children enjoy an appropriate range of physical activities both indoors and outdoors, allowing them to develop their physical skills. Regular visits to the park and use of the outdoor play area, enable children to exercise and access fresh air, which contributes to their good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home where risks are suitably identified and minimised. They are kept safe by the childminder's understanding of appropriate safety procedures. This means the children are able to move around safely and with confidence. Children's safety within the home is enhanced through the appropriate equipment in place, such as safety gates, socket covers and fireguard. Children are well supervised, as the childminder keeps children in her sight and within hearing distance at all times.

Children benefit from a balanced range of toys and equipment which are made easily accessible. The play area is organised to cater for the children's interests and stages of learning.

The childminder has acceptable procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded. She has a sound understanding of child protection procedures and has all appropriate documentation in place for recording accidents and administering medication.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have a warm and positive relationship with the childminder because she is kind and affectionate towards them. For example, children frequently laugh and engage playfully with her. Children spend their time purposefully and enjoy exploring a wide range of activities which contributes to their learning and development.

The childminder uses the 'Birth to Three Matters' framework, to promote younger children's learning. She has a good understanding of how children learn and uses this knowledge to provide children with stimulating and interesting activities. For example, baby happily plays with a wooden spoon and saucepan and enjoys seeing his reflection in the paper effect mirror. Children are able to develop their all round skills as the childminder uses praise and encourages their achievements.

Children are confident and secure in their surroundings, as the childminder shows an interest in what they do and say by talking and listening to them. This helps them develop good self-esteem. The childminder plans the activities she is going to provide, to ensure children have positive experiences while in her care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder follows an organised routine, that meets the needs of the children. Children are well behaved and feel a sense of belonging, due to the consistent boundaries set by the childminder. They are motivated and interested in the activities provided, which are adapted to their individual needs and are appropriate to their stage of development. Children are beginning to develop an understanding of other people and the world around them through discussion and adequate resources provided.

The childminder is aware that some children may have additional needs and ensures all children are included in the activities provided. Children's individual needs are met well as the childminder works in close partnership with their parents. The childminder talks through the different aspects of her service prior to placement and shares written and verbal information about daily events. However, parents are not fully informed about the complaints procedure.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare and enjoyment is promoted by the appropriate organisation and flexible routines. Space and resources are organised effectively to successfully meet the needs of all children. Children's experiences are improved, as the childminder accesses relevant training opportunities to improve her practice. For example, she holds an NVQ level 3 in childcare and has completed the 'Birth to Three Matters' training.

The childminder has most of the required documentation in place. However, this is not consistent for all children in her care. Her first aid certificate was not available at inspection and her certificate of registration was not displayed. Written policies and procedures are used to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. They are shared with parents to keep them suitably informed about the service provided.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection recommended the childminder ensure that all paperwork was made available at inspection. Although most paperwork was available, the first aid certificate was not available and some information for children who do not attend on a regular basis was not maintained. This remains a point for improvement from this inspection to ensure all children's needs are met.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints made to Ofsted.

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 that the certificate of registration is displayed
- review the complaints policy and procedures to ensure they are in line with requirements implemented in October 2005
- ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times.

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