



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300136
Inspection date	04 July 2006
Inspector	Susan Kathleen Wormald
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 for a number of years. She lives in Sheffield within easy walking distance of shops, parks and schools. The whole of the ground floor is used for minding as well as the upstairs bathroom and spare bedroom. Outside there is an enclosed area suitable for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for 11 children on a part time basis during the day and after school, six of whom are aged under eight.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and comfortable environment where good standards of hygiene are maintained. Their individual needs regarding health are met effectively because the childminder makes sure she is well informed and complies with any specific requirements for their care. For example, she has undertaken training on how to deal with severe allergic reactions and has information available for reference about such conditions and also communicable diseases.

Children learn about personal hygiene through daily routines and activities and by the childminder's support and guidance. They discuss the importance of washing hands during role play while changing teddy's nappy and talk about how this prevents the spread of germs and infection.

Children enjoy daily opportunities to take part in some physical activity. They walk to and from local schools and throughout the year visit a variety of local parks where they use swings and slides, which helps their physical development and coordination.

Children's understanding of healthy eating and which foods are good for them is promoted through discussion and planned activities. They help with the preparation of salads and snacks and are encouraged to try new things. Children's individual dietary needs are met well as the childminder fully consults with parents about both these and their children's care.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in safe and secure surroundings where the childminder assesses risks and minimises potential hazards. Children are protected by the safety measures in place and are learning to keep themselves safe as the childminder helps them to understand danger and develop safe practice. For example, they practise road safety when out walking and wrist straps and reins are used if necessary.

Children enjoy the use of a variety of resources and equipment, particularly those that encourage imaginative play. They are able to access some of these independently and safely, helping them to enjoy a range of experiences and to make choices about their play.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a secure understanding of how to protect children and recognises that this is her first priority. She is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and is clear regarding the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed, happy and settled in the childminder's care. They are comfortable and at ease in the setting as the childminder recognises that they benefit from a predictable, calm environment with regular routines and familiar resources. Good, warm and caring relationships between the childminder and the children are evident and contribute to their sense of security and belonging.

Children's particular needs are very well met. They take part in a variety of interesting and challenging activities which are thoughtfully prepared and which encourage them to develop skills and have fun. The childminder's good understanding of how children progress and learn and how best to support this promotes their development. Children are encouraged to think for themselves, to solve simple problems and participate in games that develop their number and reading skills. They communicate well with each other and enjoy each other's company. They have fun giggling and laughing together when playing 'What's the time Mr Wolf?'. Children know they are important to the childminder as she shows interest in what they do and involves herself in their play. She supports and extends their language development effectively encouraging conversation through role play and the use of puppets. Children become totally absorbed in imaginative play with the childminder supporting and developing this through her interactions and suggestions that enhance their ideas.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met well as the childminder takes time to get to know children, is sensitive to their needs and works in close partnership with parents. She finds out what is important to them and uses this information to increase their confidence and sense of well-being. Children are made to feel special. The childminder has compiled a book for each of them with photographs and examples of what they have done. Children's faces light up as they look at this together. Children learn to feel good about themselves as their achievements are acknowledged, they are given praise and attention and are clearly valued. They respond well to the childminder's clear and consistent boundaries, their behaviour is good and they are polite and helpful.

All children are able to participate fully as the childminder adapts her practice to accommodate their needs and includes activities that provide appropriate support and encouragement. This enables children with particular needs to be independent and to take an active part in the setting.

The childminder works in close association with parents. She is sensitive to their needs and supports them well. This contributes to children's wellbeing and helps ensure that they are settled and secure. She talks to parents about her childcare practice and information about children's progress is shared regularly. She has some helpful written information and photographs of what their children do.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are secure and well cared for because the childminder organises her time effectively to promote their play and care. This ensures she has time to meet children's demands and is able to give them some individual attention. Children are offered a range of appropriate and interesting activities both inside and outdoors where they can relax and play and which help them progress and develop. The childminder makes good use of local facilities, such as parks and children have regular opportunities to socialise.

All required records and documents, which contribute to children's health, safety and welfare are in place, are maintained clearly and accurately and are easily accessible. The childminder demonstrates a positive commitment towards her own personal development. She has attended a variety of relevant training and completed a comprehensive written evaluation of her practice. She uses this knowledge effectively to improve her practice and provide children with a wide range of enjoyable experiences. A number of written policies support the childminder's professional practice, however, procedures regarding complaints have not been updated to reflect current guidance. 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 ensure that children did not have access to the gas fire. An appropriate fireguard is now in place ensuring that children are now safe and suitably protected.

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 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):

- review and update the procedures dealing with complaints to ensure that they reflect current requirements.

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