



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300039
Inspection date	15 June 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1986. She lives with her three adult children in Sheffield. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding with access to first floor for use of the bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children on a part time basis.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm and welcoming environment where they can relax and play. The childminder follows very good hygiene procedures and actively encourages children to practice good routines. For example, they are encouraged to wash their hands before meals and have their own flannels, towels and toothbrushes to use. Children have their own wash bags to keep their personal belongings in and a 'now wash your hands' poster in the bathroom to encourage them to take responsibility of their own personal care. The childminder clearly understands the importance of excluding sick children in order to prevent the spread of infection.

Nutritious food is provided and meal times are sociable occasions, which enable children to develop their conversational skills. The childminder and older children plan a snack time menu together and the children help to prepare their meals. For example, they peel the carrots, make fruit salad with yoghurt and make scrambled eggs. This enables children to begin to understand the importance of a healthy diet. Children are offered drinks at meal times and when they are thirsty. They are provided with bottles of water stored in the fridge where they are allowed to help themselves.

Children take part in regular physical activities that develop both large and small motor skills. The childminder makes sure they are provided with a wide range of resources and activities to explore their physical skills. For instance, they use the trampoline, skipping ropes and have regular visits to the park and outdoor play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is well promoted in an environment which is free from hazards. Positive steps are taken to ensure that children are safe as the childminder identifies and minimises risks. The children are well supervised during play and during sleep times. Children use the space very well and are able to move around the home safely and independently. A good range of well maintained toys and age appropriate resources are stored at child height in toy boxes and low level shelves, from which children can safely select. Toys and equipment are regularly checked and cleaned to ensure that they are safe for children's use.

Children have a good understanding of safety which is developed through effective discussions and planned activities by the childminder. For example, children attended a road safety workshop and a visit from the fire officer enabled them to have a discussion about fire safety. Regular risk assessments conducted both indoors and on outings ensures children are kept safe in their environment.

The childminder has required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded. For example, she has a good understanding of child protection procedures. There is a written child protection policy, which is shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and happy. They enjoy their time with the childminder because she provides interesting activities and experiences for them both indoors and outdoors. Children are able to choose from a wide variety of resources and are able to pursue their own interests. The childminder plans a varied range of activities with resources to suit the individual needs of the children. For example, older children are learning French, learning to knit and enjoy gardening. Children are beginning to develop their independence and are curious and enthusiastic in their play. They have a warm and positive relationship with the childminder because she is kind and affectionate towards them. For example, the baby frequently smiles and makes eye contact, gives hugs and cuddles and engages playfully with the childminder. As a result, children are self-assured and happy in their environment where they can relax and play.

The childminder uses her knowledge of the children's interests and developmental stage when planning activities. Children are enthusiastic and confident in a stimulating environment where they develop good self-esteem because the childminder provides good levels of support and praise. The childminder's expectations of children are clear and realistic, allowing children to progress in their development. She involves the children in the planning of activities and ensures all age groups are able to participate. For example, she adapts the activity to their understanding and stage of development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have their individual needs met because the childminder works in close partnership with their parents. Effective settling in procedures and discussions with parents before placement ensures that the childminder has all the information necessary to care effectively for the children. The childminder shares her parent file, which includes a number of written policies and procedures to ensure that parents are well informed about her service. Children benefit from the strong links between home and the childminder. For example, parents and children are encouraged to share ideas for activities that are interesting and valuable to them.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They respond positively to boundaries and house rules that are set and they are well behaved. However, some strategies lack consistency for all children. Children are encouraged to be independent and make their own choices as they choose their equipment and toys. The children develop a good understanding of other people and the world around them through the use of readily accessible resources that promote positive images and broadens their experiences.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well cared for and benefit from a relaxed learning environment. Space and resources are organised to meet the children's needs successfully and the day is planned around their

individual needs. The childminder has well organised records, which are carefully filed and stored to maintain confidentiality. Clear written policies and procedures are readily available to parents. The childminder has a high regard for the well-being of all children in her care and offers very good support to their parents. All the required documentation is in place, which contributes to the effective and safe management of the childminding service provided.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection there were recommendations in place in relation to maintaining required documentation. For instance, maintain an accurate attendance record. The childminder now records all details in her daily register and appropriate documentation is in place. This contributes to the health and safety of the children attending the setting.

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):

- develop consistent strategies to promote positive behaviour.

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