



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300079
Inspection date	09 November 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 cares for children independently and also works jointly with her daughter-in-law who is also a registered childminder. The childminder lives with her husband and their adult daughter.

The family home is in Sheffield. The ground floor rooms are used for childminding with access to the first floor for sleep times during the day. There is a fully enclosed area for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She currently cares for one child on a full-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is sufficiently promoted within a clean and well-maintained environment. Their personal hygiene is promoted because the childminder has given satisfactory consideration to health and hygiene procedures to prevent the spread of infection. For instance, she washes children's hands before meal times. Children are kept free from infection by the childminder's appropriate procedures to exclude children if they are ill. In the event of an accident, children's welfare is adequately safeguarded because the childminder and her assistant have valid first aid certificates and a first aid kit.

Babies' emotional needs are well met; they receive lots of individual attention, support and cuddles from the childminder. Children's individual sleep and rest patterns are well met. The childminder recognises the signs of tiredness in the children and they sleep in accordance to their home routines and parents' wishes.

The childminder treats mealtimes as an opportunity to help children enjoy their food and become independent in feeding themselves. For example, the baby enjoys feeding herself with finger foods that are suitably prepared for her age. Children are provided with milk and water at regular intervals and according to their needs. They have the opportunity to develop their physical skills as they crawl freely around the home pulling themselves safely up onto furniture. They regularly have access to the back garden and local park for fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a sound awareness of potential hazards and takes suitable steps to promote safety. For example, dangerous substances are out of the reach of children and safety gates and socket covers are in place. Children have access to a suitable safe range of toys, furniture and equipment which is appropriate to their age and abilities and is well maintained. They are beginning to understand how to keep themselves safe and avoid accidental injury as the childminder reminds them to be careful when exploring their environment. The childminder vigilantly observes children during play and supervises them well. For instance, children are within hearing and sight at all times and a baby monitor is used while they sleep.

The childminder has an adequate awareness of the emergency evacuation procedure and is clear which exits she would use if necessary. However, emergency evacuations are not practised with the children. As a result, children are not fully protected in an emergency. Children are protected from harm and their welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has sufficient awareness of child protection issues and knows what to do if she has any concerns. However, she is not aware of the revised child protection guidance, to enable her to fully protect children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and well supported by the childminder. They enjoy the satisfactory range of activities provided, which are suitable to support their developmental needs. Children have access to toys and resources which are easily accessible and which they are able to choose from independently. These include musical instruments, creative materials and books. Children enjoy the activities and are happy and settled in their surroundings as they find their favourite toys. For example, baby enjoys riding in a toy car and laughs as she cuddles a teddy bear.

The childminder is aware of providing simple learning opportunities for children as she regularly talks about colours and numbers during their play. She shows an interest in what children do and say by listening and talking to them. Interaction between the childminder and the children is warm and trusting and children are confident with her and her assistant. The children are cared for in a relaxed family atmosphere where their individual needs are suitably met.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the satisfactory partnership developed between the childminder and their parents. They are treated with equal concern and their individual needs are met appropriately. This is due to the childminder taking time to get to know the children and working with parents to ensure the children's daily routines are followed successfully. Information about the children's needs, such as diet and sleep patterns, are obtained from parents at the start of the childminding placement. Basic policies and procedures are shared with parents to keep them informed about the service provided. However, the childminder is not aware of new requirements of the complaints policy. As a result, parents are not fully informed of the correct procedures to follow if they had a complaint. Children are cared for according to parents' wishes which promote continuity of care and there is a written contract.

The childminder has a satisfactory awareness of positive strategies for managing behaviour that are appropriate to their age and abilities. She uses generally good praise and encouragement, therefore raising their self-esteem and confidence. Children behave well and are content, showing a sense of belonging. For example, the baby moves around the home freely and cuddles and laughs with the childminder. The children have access to a reasonable selection of resources which promote a positive image of the world in which they live.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises space and resources generally well and attends to children's individual routines to promote their welfare and development. Children feel at home and are comfortable in their surroundings. All children's details contain the required information to ensure children's individual needs are met and documentation is safely stored to maintain confidentiality. Adult-child ratios are met and the childminder provides appropriate levels of care and supervision. The registration certificate is not displayed.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There were actions raised at the previous inspection that required the childminder to address a number of health and safety issues. These have been appropriately addressed to ensure children's safety and health needs are suitably met. There was also a recommendation regarding information parents received about the complaints procedure. The childminder has details of where parents can make complaints although new requirements are not included.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 complaint 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):

- display the registration certificate
- review the child protection and complaints procedures to ensure they are in line with new requirements and guidance
- devise an emergency escape plan and practise with children.

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