



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY234491
Inspection date	03 November 2006
Inspector	Carolyn Gifford

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 was registered in 2003. She lives with her partner and two children aged seven years and one year old in Auckley in Doncaster. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder drives part of the way and walks part of the way to schools to take and collect children, and she attends parent/carer/toddler groups and takes children to local parks.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding four children. The family has two pet rabbits.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have the opportunity to observe and develop good hygiene practices, as they are familiar with the routine and learn the importance of personal hygiene through discussion and positive example.

The childminder does have an appropriately stocked first aid box, which is stored out of reach of children yet readily available when needed. However, because she does not have a current first aid qualification, she is not fully equipped to deal with emergencies which compromises children's general welfare.

Most of the relevant written parental consents are in evidence. However, because the childminder does not have written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment, or have a policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious, children's health needs are not fully met.

Children are encouraged to develop healthy eating habits as the childminder provides fresh fruit as a snack for children after school. As this is the only care she is currently offering, the childminder chooses not to provide meals. The provision of food and drinks is discussed with parents before children start, so parents are clear about the service on offer.

A range of activities contribute to children's general well-being. The childminder ensures children have the opportunity to experience outdoor play, as they have the freedom to choose to access the garden whenever they want to and they also enjoy outings to local parks and play areas. This helps children to develop their physical skills and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are safe in the childminder's care because she gives high priority to maintaining their safety, both inside and outside the home. She encourages children to learn and understand how to keep themselves safe through clear explanations, for example, by discussing road safety when crossing roads. Children also have a clear understanding of safety issues inside the home as they practise emergency evacuation and show a good understanding of the procedure to follow in case of emergencies.

Effective use of available space ensures children are comfortable and have room to move around freely and safely. Good quality equipment and resources are readily available to children, which enables them to develop independent skills as they confidently choose what they want to do. Children have access to a fully enclosed outdoor play area, where there is a good range of equipment to give children the opportunity to develop their all round physical skills.

Children are protected as the childminder has sufficient knowledge and understanding of her role and responsibilities regarding child protection procedures, which helps to safeguard children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and confident in the childminder's care and enjoy warm, positive relationships with the childminder and with each other. Children know they are valued because the childminder shows interest in what they say and do, listening and responding appropriately, which contributes to children's feelings of security and trust.

Resources and equipment are organised well, which means that children have easy access to exciting and interesting activities and are motivated to learn. For example, when making the wooden spoon puppets, the childminder encourages the children to think about how they are going to use the materials and make choices about colours and textures.

The childminder is skilled at meeting the varying needs of children and ensures that each child has access to age-appropriate activities of their choice, which builds on their natural curiosity as learners. Children move confidently around the setting, play cooperatively with each other and enjoy positive feedback and encouragement from the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled at the childminder's home and show a strong sense of belonging. They move around with ease and confidence and are treated with equal concern. However, resources promoting positive images in all areas of equal opportunity are limited, which affects children's ability to learn about the wider world and diversity.

Behaviour is good, which reflects the clear boundaries children are given. The childminder is consistent in her approach and gives children clear explanations why certain behaviours are not acceptable. The childminder offers frequent praise and encouragement, which helps to promote children's confidence and self-esteem.

Relationships with parents are effective as they are encouraged to be involved in their child's care by sharing information and participating in daily feedback with the childminder about their child. The individual needs of children are met as the childminder takes time to get to know them well and establish likes and dislikes.

Although the childminder has had limited experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, she has a good understanding of the areas for consideration to ensure the needs of all children are met.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has effective procedures in place for sharing information with parents and ensures that records are kept up to date. She has attended some further training to extend her knowledge and understanding of child care, which has a positive effect on the general welfare of the children.

However, the childminder does not meet the qualification requirements as set out in regulations, as she does not have a current first aid certificate. Also the registration certificate, which needs to be on display, is kept in a file.

The childminder uses effective planning procedures to ensure that activities are interesting and stimulating, yet flexible enough to meet children's individual needs. The childminder has a portfolio which includes a selection of written policies and procedures, which does contribute to the operation of her childminding practice.

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 good hygiene practices are in place regarding hand washing. Children are actively encouraged to wash their hands before food and after toileting, which contributes to keeping them healthy. It was also recommended at the last inspection that the outdoor swing and trampoline are safe or inaccessible. The swing is now secured to the ground and children no longer have access to the trampoline. This helps to ensure children's safety when playing in the garden.

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 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):

- devise and implement a policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious
- obtain written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- complete a first aid course, which includes training in first aid for infants and young children

- provide activities and resources which reflect diversity and show positive images of boys and girls and men and women from a variety of cultural backgrounds and with varying needs
- ensure that the registration certificate is on display at all times when childminding.

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