



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY336087
Inspection date	24 October 2006
Inspector	Jill Lee

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 2006. She lives with her mother, brother and sister in the Kendray district of Barnsley. She works with her sister, who is also a registered childminder and both are supported by their mother, who works as their assistant.

The dining kitchen and conservatory are used for childminding activities. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family has a dog, which does not have any contact with the minded children.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time. She is currently caring for six children, one of whom is aged over eight years.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA). She completed the National Vocational Qualification Level 3 in Childcare and Education in 2005.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy activities and outings in the fresh air, which contribute to keeping them fit and well. They experience a variety of physical play activities most days, as they ride around on the bikes in the garden and use the large play equipment in the local parks. The childminder plans suitable activities to develop their abilities and encourages the children to try out new skills to promote their independence. Outings further afield are planned in the holidays, for example, to Knowsley Safari Park and the Butterfly House.

Children are protected from infection by the childminder's awareness of health and hygiene guidelines. She protects children from infection and parents are informed that sick children can not be cared for. Children's understanding of the importance of good hygiene is promoted in everyday routines, for example, they are reminded to wash their hands before they eat their snack. Arrangements for first aid and administering medication are in place, although the childminder has not sought written agreement regarding possible occasional administration of medication. Written agreements have not been obtained from parents to seek medical advice or treatment in an emergency.

The childminder negotiates arrangements for meals and drinks with parents. Children's dietary needs are met by healthy meals and snacks, which are varied to meet their individual needs and choices. They enjoy a variety of different fruits at snack time and a range of vegetables at each meal. The childminder talks with children about healthy choices and encourages them to try new foods. She discourages too many sweet foods and provides low sugar drinks. Older children are able to access drinks independently.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and child-friendly home. The childminder organises space and resources to reduce potential hazards and encourage children's independence. She considers the age range present when planning different activities and assesses risks appropriately, to promote children's safety. Children use a reasonable range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards.

Children use the whole environment freely and can visit the toilet independently. Their awareness of risk and safety is raised in everyday activities. They learn to stay beside the childminder when they are out walking and to stop at the kerb, when crossing the road together. Children understand the importance of responding quickly when they practise the emergency evacuation plan. Children's risk of accidents is minimised by careful supervision and consistently reinforced safety rules. They are encouraged to help to tidy away toys when they have finished, so the play room is safe.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's understanding of her responsibilities within child protection procedures. She understands the recording and reporting requirements.

She has attended recent training to update her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, increasing her confidence in her own ability to protect children and keep them safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a variety of activities, which support their development. They develop confidence as the childminder shows interest in what they are doing. She brings out different resource boxes each day to vary children's play opportunities and encourages them to suggest ideas for activities. She is developing a system for planning activities based around monthly topics, like transport. She does not sufficiently ensure a balanced range of resources and activities are made available in the everyday play environment. For example, children cannot independently access creative activities. This also limits children's opportunity to plan and develop their own play ideas independently.

Children play happily with activities that interest them, like building up the train track, playing with the cars and building with Lego. Their language skills develop well as they talk about what they are doing and explain the rules of the computer game to each other. They choose books from the book box and sit quietly with the childminder, to read their favourite story. They love dressing up and have great fun preparing for a local Halloween party and enjoy scaring each other with their face masks. Children enjoy a range of outings which broadens their experiences and enhances their play ideas. For example, they plan outings by bus as part of their transport topic.

Children's behaviour is good. They begin to understand right and wrong, for example, they know they must share the toys. The childminder is looking for ways to enhance children's play experiences. She has attended the 'Birth to three matters' framework training and aims to incorporate ideas from this into her planning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and at home in the childminder's care. They develop warm and trusting relationships with her. Daily routines are relaxed and children make their own suggestions about activities they would like to do. They learn to manage their own needs, for example, they are confident to ask for additional resources, which have not been put out.

Children learn to share and cooperate as they play. They are helped to feel good about themselves as the childminder praises them and gives lots of encouragement. This reinforces good behaviour, encouraging children to be kind and helpful. They are expected to behave politely towards one another and to say sorry if they hurt someone.

Children's awareness of their local community is raised well by regular outings to local shops, groups and parks. They travel by public transport to visit and explore new places. The childminder has only a limited range of resources which promote children's awareness of difference and diversity. She has enrolled all the children at the local library, to extend the range of books available, and is aware of a local toy library, but she has not used it yet.

The childminder has established close working relationships with parents. She uses photographs to help children recall activities and shares these with their parents. The childminder makes time for daily communication and encourages parents to share any concerns. She is not familiar with the requirements relating to dealing with complaints. She indicated that she has a written complaints policy, which she was unable to locate. The Ofsted poster for parents is not displayed; consequently, parents do not have the contact details of the regulator.

The childminder works in conjunction with her sister, who is also a registered childminder. The contracts and written consents agreed with parents do not formally reflect the flexibility of the co-childminding arrangement. For example, the agreement that either childminder may collect any of the children from school is not recorded. The childminder has written consents from parents relating to most aspects of their care. However, arrangements about transporting children by car are made in writing but do not clearly indicate named drivers. The childminder has agreed with parents that children can play on the cul-de-sac, if fully supervised, but was unable to locate the written consents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are supported by flexible planning, within an appropriately organised and safe environment. The childminder accesses a range of training and development opportunities, which help her to plan enjoyable experiences for children. The potential need for planning consent with regard to the joint childminding arrangement is being pursued.

Children are kept safe and their welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's understanding and implementation of most of the required policies and procedures. Some documentation was reported to be in place but was not available for inspection. The childminder clearly understands the requirements with regard to reaching agreements with parents, so that their wishes are understood. She talks with parents about her childcare practice and has a detailed information folder outlining her qualifications. Parents receive a copy of her written policies. The childminder's mother, who works as an assistant, helps with preparation of meals, support on outings and general care of the children. She does not currently have sole charge of any children.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- ensure written parental permission is requested for seeking any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment and that no medication is administered without prior written consent
- organise resources to enhance children's independent opportunities to develop their own play ideas and ensure they have a balanced range of activities in their daily play environment
- develop a clearer understanding of current guidance relating to dealing with complaints and ensure that parents have the contact details of the regulator
- ensure contracts and written consents agreed with parents clearly set out expectations of care and fully reflect the co-childminding arrangement
- ensure all required documentation is available for inspection.

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