



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300566
Inspection date	28 November 2006
Inspector	Geneen Yvonne Hulse
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 outstanding. 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 1999. She lives with her family in a detached property in Sheffield. Local shops, schools and parks are within walking distance. The childminder has two grown up children and a son aged nine.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, this includes the kitchen, lounge, dining room, playroom and conservatory. Upstairs access is to two bathrooms and the main bedroom. Children have access to a fully enclosed area for outdoor play to the rear of the property. The family have a guinea pig and a rabbit. Children are escorted to and from local schools.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding 11 children who attend on a part time basis. The childminder has an NVQ level III qualification in Childcare and Education. The childminder's husband is also a registered childminder.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy a wide range of physical activities, which contribute to their well-being. Daily walks, outings and routines help them develop excellent physical skills. They enthusiastically explore their surroundings, moving around the playroom with confidence and excitedly recall outings. Children effectively use outings to broaden their understanding and interest in the environment. They enjoy visits to the library to choose books and the Rare Breeds centre to buy duck eggs. Children purposefully undertake numerous activities to develop and improve their physical skills both indoors and out, including visits to the park and walks in the local area.

Children recognise their individual needs and are proactive in deciding what they want to eat and drink. They thrive due to the well balanced nutritious meals and snacks provided by the childminder, in accordance with parents' wishes. The childminder displays a weekly menu on her notice board and works closely with parents to introduce the children to new tastes and encourage healthy eating habits. Meal and snack times are very enjoyable and social occasions where children sit together, share interests and talk about their day. The childminder has a substantial awareness of children's likes, dislikes and any allergies. She ensures children enjoy healthy foods from local producers and involves them in shopping to extend and nurture their understanding of healthy eating. Children relish baking activities to make their own pizza and pick strawberries and apples from the garden for snacks. They enthusiastically explain that 'milk makes us big and strong'.

Children are cared for in a warm, imaginative and clean environment. They learn excellent practice through daily routines, knowing why they wash their hands after messy activities and before eating to kill the germs. Children recognise and understand the importance of good personal care as the childminder promotes exemplary health and hygiene practices. All the children have their own towels hung up in the bathroom and recognise, which colour belongs to who. Children receive extensive support to learn how to keep healthy and are increasingly independent in attending to their individual needs. For example, they know why they wash their hands before eating, if they touch the family pets and when completing craft or messy activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a stimulating, child friendly and welcoming home where all potential risks have effectively been minimised, due to the childminder's excellent awareness of safety issues. She ensures all areas of the home are safe and identifies possible concerns prior to taking children on outings, by conducting regular risk assessments. She has meticulous systems in place to review and assess all her practices on an ongoing basis. Children access all areas of the home in safety, moving between rooms freely and developing their independence and sense of danger to practise what they know. For example, when climbing stairs children are reminded of the best way to keep themselves safe. Their understanding of safety is excellent because

the childminder consistently discusses limits and boundaries with them. She effectively helps them recognize how to keep themselves safe by reinforcing good practice, such as reminding them to be careful when climbing so as not to bang their heads and regular fire practices using different exit routes to help them understand what to do in the event of a fire.

Children enjoy numerous stimulating and challenging experiences in the spacious, well-maintained home, choosing toys and games from an excellent range that meets safety standards. They are proactive in making choices from activities and equipment in clearly labelled boxes and on low shelving in a well planned playroom, that are carefully selected in line with the children's age and stage of development. Excellent levels of supervision appropriate to the children's ages and abilities are maintained by the childminder, who allows the children space to explore in safety and extend their independence and confidence. She has meticulously developed comprehensive procedures, which are reflected in her daily practices to ensure children stay safe.

The childminder has high regard for the children's well-being and has developed an excellent back up system for use in emergencies. She holds a current first certificate and demonstrates a thorough knowledge of child protection issues. Accurate documentation systems are in place to effectively record accidents and medication.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children settle extremely well and make themselves totally at home in the childminder's house. They are very confident and outgoing chatting happily to visitors, asking me why I was there and what I was doing. Children are proactive in choosing what they want to do from a wide range of stimulating, interesting and challenging activities. They are purposefully occupied in their imaginary games playing dress up and acting out simple stories. This is due to the childminders consistently resourceful and dynamic planning. They plan roles for each other and actively involve the childminder in dressing up and taking part in their games. Children enthusiastically recall outings and activities as they look intently at photographs, which the childminder uses effectively to consolidate and extend their observational skills. She consistently records what the children do in diaries of achievement including comprehensive observations and photographs.

Children are proactive in building successful relationships with the childminder and other children. This is due to consistent support that enables them to confidently develop excellent social skills and high self-esteem. The childminder plans a wide range of experiences for children to learn from each other, such as getting the older children to help feed and care for the babies. Children show high levels of independence in decision making and adapting activities to fulfil their individual aims. They are active in planning what they will do next and recalling how they made their hand print place mats. Children enjoy gainfully exploring their surroundings and delight in recalling enjoyable events, such as baking and regular visits to see the farm animals in the park.

Children are extremely motivated and absorbed in their play. They excite in exploring their natural creativity through use of paint, glue, play dough and collage. Children imaginatively

act out roles using dressing up and small world equipment purposefully to attain an agreed outcome. Children's early communication skills are extremely well supported by the childminder, as she intently listens to them, engages in conversations and responds positively to non-verbal communication. The childminder skilfully uses language to broaden the children's understanding and is proactive in extending their play. Children relish playing in the garden talking to the family pets, seeking out mini beasts and feeding the birds and squirrels.

The childminder use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to accurately assess and plan for young children, maintaining individual profiles on each child including photographs to show their progress. Babies are well cared for as the childminder sensitively includes them in all activities relevant to their stage of development to ensure they achieve their full potential. They happily giggle as they watch the other children from their bouncy chair and show awe and wonder as they watch the fish swimming in their tank.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder uses an extensive range of meaningful resources to provide the children with numerous activities to promote their self-esteem. Her excellent resources introduce children to the wider world, promote a positive view and increase their awareness of diversity. The childminder imaginatively uses dressing up clothes, musical instruments posters and books from other cultures to reflect festivals and languages. She is proactive in extending her resources and understanding by researching using the internet. Children enthusiastically talk about outings they have enjoyed, such as visits to the local park and share personal experiences of holidays. They are extremely confident and demonstrate positive self-esteem, by making choices and asking questions. Children enjoy visits to the shops and toddler groups to get to know their local environment extremely well.

Children are highly valued and respected and their behaviour is excellent as they follow daily routines, in agreement with parents, to meet their individual needs. The childminder has high expectations of the children's behaviour and effectively uses clear and consistent boundaries to ensure they achieve their full potential. Children are actively encouraged to show respect for each other and embrace differences. The childminder accurately assesses the abilities of all the children, supporting and encouraging them to try new skills and undertake different experiences. Children demonstrate a high level of respect for each other due to the childminder's sensitive and calm approach. The childminder is dedicated to finding out all she can about the children as individuals and meticulously uses information from to enable the children to be responsible and care for each other.

The childminder has a comprehensive understanding of how to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities due to accessing numerous training courses and seeking support from school to consolidate her knowledge. Parents share and receive a wealth of information to build secure relationships with the childminder, ensuring a consistent approach to the children's care. The childminder fully values parents and works with them to plan effectively for children's individual needs. She uses personal record books with observations of children enjoying a wide range of experiences and includes photographs to keep parents well informed about their children's day and all round development. These records are used to inform further

planning and support the children's progress. Children enthusiastically make themselves at home, are completely at ease and confidently make decisions about what they want to do.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are extremely relaxed and self-motivated in a well organised and inspiring environment. They are totally at home, are very confident to initiate and progress their own play, relishing their time there. Meticulous systems are in place to support the childminder's working practices and promote the children's care, development and well-being. Extensive policies and procedures support consistent and professional practice. The childminder shares and receives information with parents on a daily basis, maintaining excellent records in a professional and systematic manner to ensure they are up to date. She uses excellent observational records to demonstrate where children are at and inform parents of the next steps. Effective support systems are in place to ensure continuity of care for children, such as providing emergency and holiday cover with fellow childminders who the children know well.

Forward thinking and flexible planning systems allow children to make extensive choices to plan their own time. The childminder is highly skilled at adapting plans to effectively support and guide children to extend their play and learning. Creative use of the home environment enables children to enthusiastically access challenging and interesting activities. She is continually reviewing her practice and is proactive in accessing personal training to continue to develop the exceptional service she offers. 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 1 April 2004 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

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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