



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	401348
Inspection date	07 March 2007
Inspector	Lindsay Helen Dobson
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 1999. She lives with her husband and adult daughter in a cottage in the village of South Milford, which is on the outskirts of Leeds. The childminder works with her daughter, a qualified nursery nurse, as her assistant.

The ground floor of the home is used for childminding, with the addition of the bathroom on the first floor. The dining room is used as the main play area, with the sitting room used for quiet activities and sleeping children. There is a fully secure garden to the rear of the home which offers opportunity for outdoor play. The family own a pet rabbit.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and there are currently nine children on roll, who are all cared for on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has daily cleaning routines and procedures in place to safeguard children from cross-contamination, for example, keeping worktops, highchairs, changing mats and toys clean. However, children are not fully protected as they do not routinely wash their hands before eating. Children benefit from fresh air as they go on walks to and from school and visit the local park. They develop their large muscle control when they ride the swings and sit-on-toys, play on the climbing frames and kick footballs. Children can exercise at home as they dance to music and do acrobatics. The childminder also encourages younger children to develop their early walking skills.

The childminder has procedures in place for recording accidents and for the administering of medication, however, these records do not show sufficient information to ensure the full safeguarding of children. She has a well stocked first aid kit and emergency contact details are discussed with parents. Children follow a healthy diet as they are provided with a range of fresh fruit and healthy options for snacks and meals such as jacket potatoes, casserole and fresh vegetables. Parents' wishes are respected regarding children's dietary needs, which are recorded on children's records.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children access a child friendly and comfortable home where they are able to move freely around the allotted areas, whilst being supervised at all times. Toys and play provisions are available at low-level in the dining room. Children are becoming independent when selecting what they want to play with. They are provided with a range of colourful and interesting play provisions, which are suitable for their age and stage of development. Toys and equipment are regularly checked for damage and cleanliness to ensure children's safety.

Children are kept safe within the home as the premises are secure and the childminder has minimised risks to keep them safe. For example, she has fitted cupboard locks, plug socket covers and stair gates to prevent children gaining access to hazardous materials and areas. Children are becoming aware of dangers through general conversation and daily routines, for example, they are sometimes reminded why they should not climb on the furniture or on the toys boxes as they might fall and hurt themselves. The childminder has not introduced an emergency fire plan and does not practise this with the children.

The childminder is able to recognise the possible signs and symptoms of child abuse. She has developed a sound knowledge of how to protect children and keep them safe. The childminder has an understanding about her role in the procedures and has all the relevant advice literature and contact numbers available.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's home. The childminder forms warm, caring relationships with the children through her calm, relaxed approach. They actively seek her company. For example, children frequently take toys to her and enjoy the interaction they receive. Children gain a sense of achievement from her praise and encouragement.

Children who are minded play well together, they join in happily with shared activities. They have opportunity to develop their imaginative skills through a range of small world equipment, such as the farmyard and train set. Children are happy and confidently choose toys for themselves. They are motivated and interested in the range of purposeful indoor and outdoor activities which provide good levels of challenge and are appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Children's thinking and language skills are encouraged by the childminder who supports them in their play and learning by talking and listening to them. Children respond enthusiastically to the activities provided, such as construction, painting, sticking and reading books. There are opportunities for children to use scissors, glue, tape and a range of craft materials through projects at home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are supported and their individual needs addressed as the childminder knows the children well and provides activities to keep them interested. Children receive praise and encouragement to support their self-esteem and sense of belonging. They are developing some understanding of the wider world, however, the basic variety of resources that reflect diversity are insufficient to extend children's knowledge. Children are taken on outings to the local shops and regularly walk to the park and around the village which helps to develop an understanding of their surroundings.

Children are treated as individuals and are made to feel valued and respected. The childminder shows a positive attitude towards inclusion and would work closely with parents to support children with learning difficulties. Children behave well in response to praise and encouragement. Their behaviour is managed consistently and positively by the childminder as she has realistic expectations of the children and uses methods that are age appropriate.

The childminder maintains good relationships with parents, which ensure children's individual needs are catered for. Children's routines and activities are verbally discussed at handover and collection time, and appropriate documentation is made available for parents to view.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises the available space and resources appropriately to meet the children's needs. She arranges toys and furniture to allow children freedom of movement and choices about their play.

Documentation is generally completed appropriately and is in line with the National Standards. However, the childminder does not have a sufficiently detailed complaints procedure and this is not shared appropriately with parents.

Storage of documentation is appropriate and has confidentiality in mind. Children's needs are met because of the close relationship that the childminder has with parents. Visitors to the setting are asked for identification and are not left alone with minded children at any time.

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 required to ensure the daily register is maintained up to date, and to develop the medication procedure with regard to recording of medication and obtaining appropriate permissions from parents. The register is now up to date and accurately shows arrival and departure times, the medication log has been developed, however, this does still not show sufficient detail and a further recommendation has been raised. Improvements made ensure children's health and safety are partially promoted.

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

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):

- improve children's routines to ensure their personal hygiene needs are promoted and met
- ensure medication records show all required information
- implement and practise emergency evacuation procedures with children
- develop resources that show positive images of diversity
- further develop the complaints procedure and ensure this is fully shared with parents.

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