



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300001
Inspection date	23 January 2007
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.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered as a childminder in 1994. She lives with her husband and teenage sons in the Loxley area of Sheffield. It is close to local bus routes and schools. Children have access to ground floor rooms and access to the garden for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time. She currently has no children on roll. 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 showed a sound knowledge of how to promote the good health of children in a positive way, through regular cleaning routines and encouraging children's personal hygiene skills. For example, she describes how she would encourage children to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and understands how to manage accidents appropriately. However, the childminder is not aware of obtaining written parental permission to seek emergency advice and treatment. She is aware of the procedures to follow regarding the administration and recording of medication. The childminder recognises the importance of providing healthy choices for meals and snacks and making sure that drinks are readily available. Discussions with the childminder show that parents' wishes are respected regarding children's dietary needs. The childminder verbally demonstrated examples of healthy, nutritious foods that would be prepared for children.

The childminder understands the importance of children having regular exercise and fresh air and appropriate activities would be provided. For example, playing football in the park, visits to the soft play area and in the garden for outdoor play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's home is warm and welcoming and she provides a safe environment for children. Discussion with the childminder suggests that she takes appropriate steps to ensure children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. The childminder has taken action to ensure risks in and outside her home have been minimised, so that children can play safely. Children would be made aware of any potential dangers to help them learn about keeping themselves safe both indoors and outdoors. For example, learning simple first aid skills and the Green Cross Code.

The childminder verbally demonstrated a satisfactory understanding of child protection and a suitable understanding of her role and responsibilities to protect children from harm. She is aware of the relevant child protection procedures to follow to ensure that children's welfare is protected. However, she is not fully aware of the new regulations. There is an adequate range of safe and suitable toys and equipment available for children to access. The childminder is aware of providing age appropriate and well maintained resources for children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrated a good understanding of children's developmental needs and how she would use their interest to plan stimulating and interesting activities. For example, nature walks and singing sessions. The childminder explained how she would arrange activities to encourage children to spend their time purposefully. She aims to provide children with a

relaxed atmosphere where they would be able to feel secure in their environment. As a result, developing a sense of belonging and confidence.

The childminder talks about how she encourages children's positive interaction with each other and herself, which enables them to build meaningful relationships. From discussions the childminder showed how the daily routines would be flexible to meet the needs of the children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder recognises the value of working closely with parents and of having suitable systems for the sharing of information. There is appropriate information in place to inform parents about making complaints. However, the complaints policy is not up to date to fully inform parents of the correct procedures to follow. From discussion, the childminder demonstrates suitable understanding of the importance of children becoming aware of the wider society in which they live. She demonstrates a clear understanding of behaviour management and explains the importance of giving positive praise and encouragement to children.

The childminder gives examples of satisfactory strategies, such as using distraction and explanation. She describes her daily routines as being flexible and appropriate to children's needs. For example, she takes time to get to know the children and understand their individual needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Documentation shows that the childminder has a well organised, professional approach to her childminding role. She shows a positive commitment to updating her childcare skills and knowledge with appropriate training courses. Space and resources are suitable to meet the needs of all children. The childminder is aware of all the necessary documentation to have in place to ensure that children's needs can be met and their welfare safeguarded. The childminder has a secure knowledge of the National Standards. This promotes children's safety and well-being.

Overall, evidence suggests that the provision would meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder was asked to develop her systems for dealing with accidents, medication and having documentation available for inspection. She has addressed the recommendations suitably and has all the relevant documentation available for inspection.

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.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

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):

- request written parental permission, at the time of placement, to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment
- review the complaints and child protection policy and procedures to ensure they are in line with current guidelines and requirements.

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