



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	302743
Inspection date	17 January 2007
Inspector	Maralyn Chiverton
Type of inspection	Integrated
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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are satisfactory.

the time of the inspection there were no children in receipt of nursery education. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide nursery education.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since November 1997 to care for no more than six children less than eight years of age at any one time. At present there are six children who attend on a part-time basis. The childminder has been approved to care for children in receipt of nursery education funding. At present there are no children attending who are in receipt of nursery education funding.

The whole of the ground floor is used for minding and there is an enclosed area for outdoor play. Children have access to a bathroom on the first floor. The childminder lives with her husband and two teenage sons aged 13 and 16 years in Monk Bretton on the outskirts of

Barnsley. She takes children to and from school and to a local playgroup. The childminder is a member of an accredited childminding association and the local network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are provided with an environment that is clean and welcoming. They are kept healthy and free from infection through the childminder's good understanding of the need for effective health and hygiene practices. For example, equipment and toys are cleaned on a regular basis and children are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. However, the childminder does not promote children's understanding for the reasons why. Children are protected from becoming ill as the childminder puts into practice an effective sick child policy. She uses story time to promote children's understanding about the need to complete a course of medicine to make them better and to stop them from becoming ill again.

The food provided by the childminder promotes the children's good health and ensures that they enjoy a varied and nutritious diet, including plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables. Drinks are readily available for the children, especially at mealtimes and after playing out. Children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle is promoted through activities, such as making a collage of healthy foods and discussing how good food helps children to grow big and healthy.

Children benefit from regular routines which include periods for exercise, rest and relaxation. They have regular access to a good range of outdoor equipment which allows them to develop their physical skills. These include a slide, small trampoline and wheeled toys. Children's understanding of the changes to their bodies after being active are promoted through simple explanation. For example, after playing out or running children are encouraged to sit down and let their body cool down.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a safe and secure environment. The childminder ensures that space and resources are effectively deployed to allow children to move freely and independently. Toys and resources are safe, suitable and appropriate to children's needs. The childminder risk assesses the rooms and garden prior to the children attending. Children are kept safe through effective policies and procedures, such as a written fire evacuation policy which children practise on a regular basis. However, these are not recorded, which limits identifying and minimising any concerns.

Children are kept safe on outings through the good organisation of the childminder, who ensures a first aid pack and children's contact numbers are always taken. They avoid accidental injury in the home through simple reminders and explanations. For example, they know that running in the house and throwing could be dangerous as you may, 'fall and hit someone'. Children have regular access to a garden that is safe and secure and allows them the opportunity to play on both paved and grassed areas. Children are kept free from harm through the

childminder's clear, sound understanding of the issues and procedures with regard to child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, relaxed and confident. They show enjoyment and enthusiasm when playing with others or independently. Children are involved and show interest in what they do and enjoy warm, caring relationships with the childminder and each other. Children benefit from the provision of a well-balanced variety of resources and activities which include the use of a cassette player and the collecting of leaves for printing. Children attend a playgroup two mornings a week, which helps the children to socialise and become aware of their needs and those of others. Children share which promotes well their understanding of everyone having a turn. They develop a good understanding of shapes, colours, numbers and mathematical language through constant interaction with the childminder. She uses appropriate questions to challenge and further develop children's learning. For example, they discuss a sunflower having lots of seeds which bees like to eat. Children enjoy singing to nursery rhymes and participate in the actions. They are able to recognise shapes, colours and the differences between big and small. They are beginning to recognise and write their names and enjoy drawing pictures of themselves.

Nursery Education.

The quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. There are no funded children attending at present, but evidence from plans and records demonstrates that the childminder has a sound knowledge of the Foundation Stage. The childminder explains how she is able to use her knowledge to provide a varied range of learning opportunities and activities. Observations taken of children who previously attended as well as planning sheets indicate that they were provided with many opportunities to enjoy positive play experiences and were clearly motivated to learn. However, there is no clear procedure for extending children's learning. Children are encouraged to play together and to consider the needs of others. They become independent in managing their personal care through daily routines. Children are confident to talk about what they are doing. Plans and records show that children take part in activities to develop their awareness of the world around them through discussion and being involved in the planting and watering of sunflower seeds.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued, respected and feel a sense of belonging. They are well behaved and very supportive of each other. For example, 'I help her because she doesn't know how to do this jigsaw'. Older children encourage the younger children to join them in their play. Their understanding and awareness of their needs and those of others are well promoted through sensitive discussion and a wide range of resources which promote diversity, such as cultural books and jigsaws.

Children have a good awareness and understanding of the wider world and their local environment through planting sunflower seeds and looking at a local waterfall. Children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered. For example, they explore positive images through the media and resources, such as books and jigsaws. The childminder encourages children to take personal responsibility for themselves. They help to tidy away toys before choosing others to play with. They receive lots of support and encouragement which builds up their confidence and self-esteem.

The partnership with parents and carers is good. The childminder provides an informative booklet about the service she offers, together with a wide range of policies and procedures. She also includes information about how children learn through play. The childminder encourages parents to share information and gives verbal feedback about any significant events and children's progress on a daily basis.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well settled and benefit from regular routines and a warm, caring environment. The childminder has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities. She makes effective use of space and resources both inside and outside the home to promote children's learning and enjoyment in their play, which also allows children to make independent choices.

Well-written policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment and ability to make a positive contribution.

Children's needs are effectively met through the experience and expertise of the childminder, who organises her time effectively to ensure children's individual needs are met. Children are competently supervised at all times and the childminder is committed to improving her own knowledge and understanding of working with children through accessing training. This will broaden the range of the children's experiences, contributing to the quality of care and education provided.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last care inspection the childminder has taken very positive steps to improve children's safety, welfare and learning. For example, a wide range of multicultural resources has been introduced which reflects positive images and promotes children's understanding of diversity.

All information kept on minded children is recorded and includes procedures for any temporary placements as well as information about notifiable illnesses. This ensures children are kept safe and well at all times.

The childminder has attended a behaviour management course to ensure that her interaction with children is very positive and encouraging.

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.

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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):

- further children's understanding of the reasons and benefits for personal hygiene
- review the fire evacuation policy to include a procedure for identifying and minimising any concerns to ensure children are kept safe at all times.

The quality and standards of the nursery education

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- review and update skills in relation to extending children's learning.

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