



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300014
Inspection date	09 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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1993. She lives with her husband and two sons aged 15 years and 12 years in the Stannington area of Sheffield, close to local shops and bus routes.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children and is currently minding four children on a part time basis. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding with access to the bathroom upstairs. There is an enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from the risk of cross infection because the childminder takes suitable steps to ensure appropriate procedures are in place. For example, there is clear advice given to parents for the exclusions of the sick children. Children are beginning to learn the importance of personal hygiene through daily routines, such as appropriate hand washing before meals and after toileting. Arrangements to ensure that children have appropriate care in the event of an accident are suitable as the childminder has a current first aid certificate and has written permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

Parents supply packed lunches for their children and the childminder encourages them to provide healthy meals to help children begin to gain a reasonable understanding of healthy eating. Regular drinks are provided according to children's needs. Children sit together at meal times and with the childminder which encourages social development.

Children have regular access to fresh air and physical exercise during visits to the park, walking in the community and use of appropriate equipment to develop their physical skills. Babies begin to develop control of their bodies as they begin to try different positions to acquire new skills, such as rolling. Children's individual sleep patterns are discussed with parents and their needs are met appropriately.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe due to simple explanations and safe routines promoted by the childminder. For example, during walks within the community they learn about road safety and gentle reminders to older children to be careful around babies while they play on the floor. Children's safety is promoted because the childminder takes suitable steps to prevent accidents. Children enjoy their play in a generally safe and secure environment. The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare by having suitable equipment, procedures and documents in place, such as safety gates, smoke alarms and a fire blanket. However, children do not have the opportunity to fully understand the fire procedure as they are not involved in the evacuation process.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder has a sound understanding of her responsibilities and procedures to follow in the event of a child protection issue. The childminder is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and has an adequate knowledge of the procedures to follow. She continues to develop her understanding of up to date procedures with further training. Space is sufficient for the number of children the childminder is registered to care for. It is well organised with areas for children to eat, sleep and play in comfort. Children have access to a suitable range of safe toys and equipment that is appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children access facilities both indoors and outside developing choice and independence. They socialise with both the childminder and their peers well. Flexible daily routines show a variety of play activities are carried out and children access age appropriate activities. For example, older children enjoy sewing, while younger children enjoy painting outside and babies have a variety of baby toys including rattles and stacking toys. Children are comfortable and at ease in their surroundings which contributes to their sense of belonging.

The childminder has a relaxed, friendly approach with children which helps them to feel at ease. She enjoys the children's company and is fully aware of their individual needs. Children develop confidence and self-esteem through the childminder frequently talking to the children and spending quality time with them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their needs are met as they follow their normal daily routines as discussed with their parents. Regular daily verbal feedback to parents supports children's care and ensures that parents receive information relating to all care issues. Children show throughout their play that they understand responsible behaviour and are beginning to share and take turns with support from the childminder. They recognise the needs of others due to consistent boundaries being maintained by the childminder. For example, older children happily include the baby in their play and show concern and interest in them.

Children are developing an awareness of the wider world through their play. Children are treated as individuals and the childminder ensures that there are varied opportunities to extend their experiences. They benefit from resources and activities to promote multi-cultural awareness and diversity. The childminder is aware that some children may have additional needs and ensures all children are included in the activities provided.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Organisation within the home allows access to all play activities both indoors and outdoors. Children benefit from being with the childminder who is confident and suitably organised in her day to day interaction with them. There are satisfactory systems in place for sharing records and information with parents about their child's daily needs, routine and activities. These contribute to continuity in the children's care as their routines and achievements are shared between parents and the childminder.

All of the required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place. For example, accident, medication and children's attendance records are suitably recorded. Documentation is stored away to maintain confidentiality.

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 asked to develop a clear understanding of child protection issues. She has addressed this by producing a written child protection policy which is shared with parents. This contributes to children's safety and well-being.

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.

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 safety for children by practising the fire evacuation procedure.
- continue to develop knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures.

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