



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	302681
Inspection date	15 January 2007
Inspector	Hilary Mary Mckenning

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

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1999. She lives with her husband and two children. The family live in Darfield, near Barnsley. Children access the whole of the ground floor of the premises and bathroom facilities on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She currently cares for 10 children on a part time basis. The childminder takes and collect children from the local school. She meets regularly with local childminders and attends local toddler and carer groups. The childminder is part of an approved network of childminders and also a sponsored network. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from illness and infection as they follow good hygiene procedures and are cared for in clean and well-maintained premises. Children's awareness of germs is developed through discussion and good daily routines, such as regular hand washing practices.

Children enjoy a good variety of nutritious food and drinks, which takes into account children's dietary needs and parents' wishes. Daily written sheets outlining the children's day are shared with parents. The childminder recognises when babies and children's behaviour changes as they become hungry and tired. She acts upon non-verbal signals from babies when they show signs of hunger by immediately providing them with a nutritious snack.

Children experience a good range of challenging physical activities. Regular visits to parks and daily walks allow children to develop their all round physical skills. For younger children, there is a good range of every day objects to squeeze and hold to encourage exploration. Children's access to a wide range of physical activities contributes to their good health in a positive manner. This promotes their developing confidence in physical abilities. Children are well rested and alert and so enjoy their play. This is due to the childminder discussing with parents their child's individual eating and sleeping routines. This ensures children thrive as their individual needs are successfully met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in safe and well-maintained premises. Positive steps are taken to ensure children are able to move around play areas safely. Potential hazards are identified and effectively addressed, in order to maintain a secure environment both indoors and out. For example, a health and safety checklist is completed daily. Children are actively encouraged to be aware of their own safety. For example, fire drills are practiced with the children teaching them how to evacuate quickly and safely. They enjoy a good balance between the freedom to explore and the childminder's setting of safe limits.

Children access a good range of toys and equipment which promotes their choice. Thorough monitoring of children's toys and activities ensure they remain safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Children are free to explore the safe environment which promotes their confidence and abilities, as sharp corners are covered with protectors. Equipment is of a suitable design and helps to create a stimulating play area for children.

Children are protected as the childminder has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities regarding child protection matters. She has a clear understanding of child protection procedures and recognises the signs and symptoms of possible abuse. She has a written policy that is shared with parents, following Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and content. They are confident and settled within the environment. There are good daily routines in place, which follow individual patterns helping children to feel secure and at ease in their surroundings. Children relate very well to the childminder. They share a warm and caring relationship with each other and form good friendships. Children are learning appropriate social skills and enjoy being with and talking to adults and other children. This results in them being able to build meaningful relationships.

Children have access to a wide range of resources and activities although the presentation does not fully enable children to access resources themselves, developing their independence. Younger children engage in concentrated imaginative play in which they extend their language, try out new ideas and select suitable resources as they engage in activities. Children access an interesting range of activities and experiences, appropriate to the age and stage of children's development. For example, the range of equipment is linked to the individual needs and interests of children attending. Therefore, children spend their time purposefully and enjoy playing with the toys provided.

Children are developing good communication skills as the childminder actively listens and responds using every day routines, such as dressing, changing and meal times. She is skilled in encouraging discussion and conversations. For example, when a child playing with small world activities, the childminder asks, 'can you see a piece that belongs in the carriages?' Young children indicate toys and activities they want to play with and the childminder responds by getting children to converse with her. She enthusiastically follows their lead as they explore their environment, people and resources.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's needs are met well as the childminder takes time to get to know the children and their families. Their individual routines are followed successfully as the childminder works closely with parents. Children are very happy and content within the environment. They have formed good relationships with each other, the childminder and her family. Children are confident and are showing a strong sense of belonging.

Children's awareness of the local community is promoted well through regular outings to places of interest. Children are beginning to learn about the wider world as they have equal access to a variety of resources that positively address diversity, including books, small role-play people and dolls.

A clear and consistent approach to managing children's behaviour effectively encourages children to behave well. They learn right from wrong in a warm and caring environment. Children know what is expected of them as they are given clear instruction and guidance. For example, they are given clear explanations when they are asked to conform, or in the case of younger children, distraction techniques are used effectively.

Partnerships with parents and carers is good which contributes to the children's overall well being. A daily sheet ensures that parents are kept up-to-date about their child's care. Children are very settled and clearly benefit from the positive partnership.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and at ease in the childminders home which means they are confident to explore the environment and toys. All required documentation is kept in a well-organised and professional manner and confidentiality is maintained at all times.

The childminder is enthusiastic and displays a positive commitment towards ongoing training. She takes full advantage of training opportunities to widen her knowledge and understanding of relevant practices and has effective skills to care for children. This commitment to training enables her to keep up to date with current practice and enhance the childminding service. For example, she has attended the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

Required adult to child ratios are met. This provides good levels of care and supervision to ensure children are well supported in their care and learning. 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 address an issue relating to the child protection procedures. She has reviewed her procedures and includes the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance in the information folder she shares with parents. This ensures that parents have a clear understanding and help to safeguard children.

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 good. 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):

- further consider the presentation of activities and resources to promote children's independence.

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