



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	321942
Inspection date	23 February 2007
Inspector	Maralyn Chiverton
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 was registered in May 1995 to care for no more than six children less than eight years of age at any one time. At present there are four children who attend on a part-time basis. The whole of the ground floor is used for minding and children have access to a bathroom on the first floor. There is an enclosed area for outdoor play.

The childminder lives with her husband and family in Hemsworth on the outskirts of Pontefract. She takes and collects children from school and takes children to the local park, as well as attending the local toddler group.

The childminder has a recognised Early Years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a clean and well maintained environment. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of what constitutes good hygiene. For example, she ensures children's individual face cloths are washed daily and toys are washed on a regular basis. Children's understanding of personal hygiene is reinforced through washing of hands after using the toilet, before eating and simple explanations to the reasons why. For example, you might get germs which could give you tummy-ache.

Children are provided with a well balanced variety of home cooked nutritional meals and snacks. For example, fresh fruit, beef stew with fresh vegetables, fish fingers and spaghetti bolognaise. Their understanding of the benefits of eating good food is promoted through simple discussion. For example, if you eat all your dinner you will grow big like mummy and daddy. Children's enjoyment of physical exercise is well promoted through regular outdoor play and visits to the local park. Well planned routines and comfortable seating allow children to have periods of rest and relaxation. Although the childminder has attended previous first aid courses she does not have a valid first aid certificate. This does not meet the criteria as set out in the standards.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for in a safe and secure setting. The childminder ensures that space and resources are effectively deployed to allow children to move freely with safety and independence. She checks all rooms to ensure they are safe before children arrive. Children have access to an appropriate range of toys and resources which are safe, suitable and purposeful. The childminder ensures that any toys in need of replacement are bought from a reputable company and have the BS EN kite mark. Children are kept safe through the relevant understanding of the childminder who promotes well their awareness of how to avoid accidental injury. For example, children know not to run or climb as they could fall and hurt themselves.

The childminder effectively implements an 'out and about' policy to ensure children are kept safe on outings. For example, all parent contact numbers are taken as well as a first aid box and children are securely fastened in pushchairs. Children are kept free from harm through the sound understanding of the childminder with regard to child protection issues. The childminder has a written child protection policy in place. However, it does not fully inform parents about the procedures to be taken in case of a concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, confident learners. They show enjoyment and enthusiasm when playing. Children have access to a variety of interesting resources which include bricks for building, jigsaws, cars and a variety of books. However, younger children are not offered enough natural materials or opportunities to develop their curiosity and understanding of the world around

them. Children's understanding of colour, shape and number is well promoted through appropriate questioning, reiteration and the use of resources. For example, when looking at books children are encouraged to count how many, name a variety of colours and shapes as well as what noise does that make?

Children have a good understanding of right and wrong which is well promoted through reinforcement and simple discussion. They enjoy a caring relationship with the childminder and receive appropriate encouragement and support. This helps to promote children's self-esteem and confidence in a positive way. Children have regular access to a local toddler group which promotes well their understanding of sharing and taking turns; they also participate in a variety of creative activities, such as making kites and decorating Easter eggs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are respected as individuals and included fully in the setting. They benefit from the positive attitude of the childminder with regard to promoting equality of opportunity. For example, children are never stereotyped and are encouraged to participate in all activities. They are provided with a relevant range of resources and activities which promote well their understanding of diversity and the wider world. For example, they celebrate Eid by colouring in rangoli patterns. Children are well behaved and benefit from the childminder's sound understanding of behaviour management, such as ensuring children are offered 'lots to do' to keep them occupied and prevent them from becoming bored.

Children with learning difficulties or disabilities are catered for through the childminder's valid experience and comprehensive understanding of the issues surrounding such children. The childminder encourages parents to share information to ensure children's individual needs are met. Parents receive verbal information about their child's progress. At Christmas they receive a photograph album which shows the activities and experiences their child has participated in.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are well settled and benefit from a well organised setting which allows them to independently choose an activity or toy of their choice. They receive good levels of support, encouragement and consistent interaction from the childminder which promotes their confidence and self-esteem. Their learning is generally well promoted through the effective use of space and resources as well as an interesting range of activities and experiences.

All mandatory documentation is in place which ensures the smooth efficient running of the provision, as well as promoting the welfare, care and learning of the children who attend. Parents receive good information about the service offered and sign to say they have read and agree with all policies and procedures implemented by the childminder. The childminder has a recognised Early Years qualification. She ensures all individual records are shared with parents.

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 positive steps to ensure children are kept safe at all times. For example, she has obtained the government booklet 'What To Do If You Think A Child Is Being Abused' and has included a list of contact numbers of appropriate agencies.

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):

- review the child protection policy to include information for parents on the procedures followed in case of any concern
- obtain a valid first aid certificate through attending an approved first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- using the 'Birth to three matters' framework provide a range of natural materials and more opportunities for younger children to develop their curiosity and understanding of the world around them.

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