



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 303035
Inspection date 04 May 2005
Inspector Carolyn Gifford

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 1986. She lives with her family at Thorpe Hesley in Rotherham. The area has good transport links and there is access to shops, children's play areas and parks.

Schools and pre-school facilities for younger children are situated in the locality.

The whole of the ground floor of the premises is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years old at any one time and is currently minding four children under eight. She is also caring for four children over the age of eight years.

The childminder attends a local carer and toddler group on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and dietary needs are met well because the childminder works effectively with parents' and shares information daily about all aspects of the children's day. Children learn about healthy living and understand simple good health and hygiene practices, for example the childminder explains the reasons why the children need to wash their hands.

Younger children are able to fully participate in an appropriate range of activities. The childminder's understanding of how young children learn and develop, gives them confidence to try new skills, for example, different skill levels of jigsaws are provided and the childminder encourages children to progress to more complex jigsaws.

Children enjoy regular outings to local places of interest and have daily opportunity to experience outdoor as well as indoor play. As children become increasingly aware of the way activity affects their bodies, the childminder ensures there is provision for drink, rest and relaxation.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder is vigilant regarding safety, which means that children are cared for in a welcoming, safe and secure environment, for example she conducts a visual risk assessment of the premises and the resources prior to children arriving. The furniture, toys and equipment are age appropriate, which enables children to move around freely and independently. Children have easy access to a wide range of activities and good quality resources, which meet safety standards.

Children are protected because the childminder understands her role regarding child protection and has a good knowledge of the appropriate procedures. Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted, for example the childminder has a current first aid certificate and a good understanding of the National Standards for childminders.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are confident at the setting and in their relationship with each other and with the childminder. They socialise with other children through regular attendance at

local toddler groups.

Children play cooperatively and enjoy positive feedback and encouragement from the childminder, for example when completing the varied skill level jigsaws. Craft activities are readily available and children's work is displayed, which gives value and promotes their self esteem.

Children spend their time purposefully and enjoy exploring a wide range of activities which contribute to their creativity such as painting, baking and planting seeds. The childminder has a good understanding of how young children learn and develop and adapts activities such as storytelling, singing and art and craft to promote younger children's learning. Children's independence is encouraged as they choose freely between a variety of books, toys and activities, which are all readily accessible for when children arrive.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and enjoy coming to the childminder's home. They are motivated and interested in a broad range of purposeful and developmentally appropriate activities, which provide good levels of challenge suitable to their age and stage of development. Resources promote positive images in all areas of equal opportunities and children extend their knowledge and understanding of the wider world by regular visits to local places of interest.

Children are respected as individuals and their needs are effectively met as daily routines are discussed with their parents. Children behave well, make themselves at home and are confident in deciding what to do and in their interactions with the childminder. Appropriate behaviour management strategies are in place, which help children to understand the effect of their behaviour on others, for example when children argue over one piece of equipment the childminder intervenes with sensitivity and understanding of the needs of the individual children. The children show good levels of independence, curiosity and imagination by being able to freely access resources.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children and are readily available to parents. The childminder has included relevant policies and procedures in a written document, which is given to all new parents.

Daily sharing of information ensures parents are well informed about their child's progress and how the service contributes to the care of their children. Space and resources are organised to effectively meet the children's needs. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection, the childminder has improved the systems for obtaining appropriate written parental consents and for recording accidents, incidents and when medication is administered to children. Although some improvement in the level of detail recorded is still required, this means that parents can now be much more secure in the knowledge that information is recorded towards ensuring the health and well-being of their children.

The childminder has increased her knowledge and understanding of the National Standards for childminders, which improves the quality of childcare offered to children and promotes their enjoyment and learning experiences.

Relevant policies and procedures are included in the 'terms and conditions' document which is given to all new parents, which ensures they are clear about the childminding service and the procedure to follow if they have any concerns.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- improve the systems for recording accidents, incidents and when medication is administered

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk