

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY251848 |
| Inspection date | 06 June 2007 |
| Inspector | Tara Street |
| 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 February 2003. She lives with her husband and two children in Dronfield. The whole of the ground floor and two rooms on the first floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five all day. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler and childminding groups. The family has a pet dog.

She is a member of an approved childminding network and the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and hygiene is appropriately maintained. Babies and toddlers experience hygienic nappy changing routines and are assisted to wash their hands before and after meals. Older children confidently go to the toilet unaided, dispense their own soap and turn the taps on and off. However the children share a daily communal towel, potentially impacting on their health. Children's progress towards independent personal hygiene routines are positively reinforced, such as receiving regular praise and encouragement from the childminder as they achieve a new skill, such as, using the potty for the first time or dispensing their own soap. A policy regarding childhood illness is shared with parents, contributing to children's health and well-being whilst in her care. Written permission is obtained from parents for the childminder to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment. Appropriate care is given if children have minor accidents as the childminder holds a relevant first aid certificate and renews this regularly. Administered medication and accidents are clearly recorded and parents informed on the day, however they do not always sign acknowledgement of being informed.

Children's nutritional needs are well met. They experience a variety of healthy snacks and meals which are freshly prepared to meet their individual dietary requirements. The childminder takes time to get to know the children's preferences and provides food that they will enjoy such as, toast, fresh fruit, omelettes and pasta dishes. She ensures the safety of food through good storage, preparation and cooking routines. Children's awareness of healthy eating is effectively promoted as they regularly discuss the types of foods that are good for their bodies. They also enjoy visiting the local green grocers to choose the fruits and vegetables for their meals and snacks. Meal times are sociable occasions with children and the childminder sitting and eating together. Children are encouraged to take their time and enjoy their food. They are provided with age appropriate utensils to experiment with and develop independent eating skills. Children are well hydrated as fresh drinks are available and freely accessible throughout the day.

Children experience regular opportunities to be active during the day. They experience a balanced range of regular activities both inside and outside which develops their co-ordination and balance skills. The childminder encourages children to be active and is developing their understanding of how exercise helps to keep their bodies strong. Children have access to a good sized outside play area with bicycles, balls, slides and a trampoline. Young children enjoy listening and dancing to music, playing simple ball games and riding on wheeled vehicles. Older children enjoy visiting the local play centre, parks and participating in group games. They are learning to become aware of their bodies needs, such as using sun screen on sunny days and putting on coats and hats in cold weather to keep warm.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and homely environment where they are always within sight or hearing of the childminder which ensures they can move around safely. Children's art work, such as paintings and healthy eating posters, are displayed, promoting their sense of belonging and boosting their confidence and self-esteem. They enjoy a wide range of toys and activities that are age and stage appropriate and well maintained. Children relax and sleep according to their needs because the childminder plans her home and routines to offer opportunities for rest and quieter activities.

Children's safety is given high priority by the childminder, who is vigilant in her supervision of the children. She has a good knowledge and understanding of risk assessments and carries out ongoing checks which enable children to play without risk of harm or injury. Appropriate safety equipment is in place to ensure hazards are reduced, such as socket covers and stair gates. Children are learning to keep themselves safe because the childminder teaches them important safety messages, which they then follow. For example, children help to tidy away toys and understand this is to prevent them from tripping over them. Children's awareness is further promoted through planned activities to increase their awareness of personal safety, such as road safety awareness when walking in the community and through wearing wrist bands with the childminders contact details when on outings. A thorough emergency escape plan has been written, which is rehearsed regularly with the children to promote their understanding of safety within the home. Parental permissions are obtained to transport children and to take them on outings. For example, local parks, White Post farm, bowling and day trips to the seaside.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's clear understanding of child protection issues in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance and how to take any action required to protect children. She has established a clear written policy to ensure parents are fully informed of her responsibility to protect children from harm. The childminder ensures that children are only collected by their parents or named adults by prior written agreements and children are never left alone with other adults.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's potential is well supported by the childminder. They have the opportunity to enjoy and are interested in a broad range of free choice and planned activities such as, messy play, construction, puzzles and games. These provide good levels of challenge which are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Careful consideration is given to the needs of the children and resources are rotated regularly to offer inspiration. Children's suggestions and requests are valued and planned activities are adapted to suit their interests, stimulating their play, learning and enjoyment. The childminder has a good awareness of child development. She organises the space and activities well to give babies, toddlers and older children space to play and develop their skills without interruption.

Children's learning needs are well met as the childminder listens to their questions and comments and shows genuine interest in their discoveries. Children are encouraged to experiment and explore with the materials available and develop their creativity and imagination. They play imaginatively with the role play train track, rearranging the tunnels and moving the cars and helicopters around the buildings. Children enthusiastically create pictures and collages to put on the walls using a wide range of mediums such as, paints, glue, materials and different textured papers. The childminder is effective in promoting language and emerging mathematical skills through the use of questioning and activities that encourage repetition of words. For example, while setting up a wooden village she encourages children to name the types of shops, what they can see in the windows and to count how many animals they can find. Children confidently interact with the childminder and enjoy sitting close to her when looking at the photograph's of other minded children on the wall. They are learning to socialise well through attending the local toddler group and joining in with the games and activities. Older children are encouraged to share their play with the younger children and consider the needs of others, such as sharing and turn taking with resources. Children enjoy taking their learning outside and are developing an understanding of the world around them. They enjoy walks in the local

community and watch the wildlife at the local park, discussing the different types of wildlife they can see, such as ducks and insects.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being treated as individuals. The childminder takes time to get to know each child's interests and abilities and therefore ensure they receive appropriate attention to meet their needs. Children are encouraged to listen to and respect each others ideas and opinions. Their awareness of diversity in the wider world is effectively raised through the use of a wide selection of appropriate resources within their imaginative play, books, puzzles, posters and small world toys. The childminder uses age-appropriate books to discuss and develop young children's understanding of a diverse culture and beliefs. Older children are eager to research different cultural festivals of the world and enjoy informing the childminder of what they have discovered. Their awareness is further developed through planned themes on different festivals of the world, such as Diwali, Mehndi and Chinese New Year.

Although there are no children currently attending the setting who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities, the childminder is able to provide care which includes them in the life of the setting through discussing their needs with parents.

Strategies are in place to manage children's behaviour effectively. Children behave well, are polite and they respond well to simple and consistent house rules so that they know what is expected of them, for example taking turns with their toys and saying please and thank you. Children's understanding of right and wrong is increased as they respond to gentle reminders to care for their environment and each other. Children are valued and respected as individuals and their achievements are encouraged and praised, so that children's self-esteem and sense of identity is enhanced. For example, the childminder has implemented an effective reward chart and 'star of the week' system to reward children for positive behaviour such as taking part in group games.

The childminder builds professional and friendly relationships with parents from the start of placement. Parents receive a comprehensive range of documentation and information about the childminding service. This includes the childminder's aims and objectives and a range of written policies. A clear complaints procedure is in place and is effectively shared with parents. The childminder uses effective communication methods to meet parents' needs, such as discussions at collection time and a daily diary system for children under one, which informs them of their child's progress and day to day care. Information provided is clear and useful to parents. Children therefore benefit from this consistency of care, for example, maintaining similar routines and ensuring children's preferences are addressed. Children feel secure and parents develop confidence and trust in the childminder and the service that is offered.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare is effectively promoted as they are cared for by a childminder who has a range of experience with the different age ranges she cares for. She is effective in identifying her own training needs and attends appropriate courses which improve the care and learning offered to children. Recent training includes 'Birth to three matters', observation techniques and behaviour management training. Children's welfare and progress is encouraged as a result of the childminder's successful organisation skills. For example, children attend a variety of

outings within the local community and surrounding areas to develop their awareness of the world around them. A thorough register of attendance is in place with children's times of arrival and departure, ensuring ratios are maintained at all times, which enables her to provide appropriate activities for the ages and numbers attending.

The childminder is committed to ensuring that children's individual needs are met. Most documentation is well maintained and suitable for its purpose. Written policies and procedures, which she has produced, are clear, easy to follow and are effectively shared with parents, helping to promote the welfare, safety, care and learning of children. The privacy of parent's and children is maintained through the childminder's sound understanding of confidentiality. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder agreed to consider carrying out a physical evacuation of the premises and to include a written sick children policy in the information given to parents. The childminder also agreed to make available to parents a written statement that provided the details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint. Since the last inspection the childminder has written a clear sick child policy and a complaints procedure that is effectively shared with parents at the start of their child's placement. She has developed a thorough emergency evacuation procedure which she rehearses regularly with the children and carries out a thorough review to ensure any issues are effectively dealt with and therefore maintain the safety of the children in her care.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 develop toileting procedures to prevent the spread of infection
- ensure all accident and medication records are signed by parents.

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