



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY217828
Inspection date	15 June 2005
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 has been registered as a childminder since February 2002.

She lives with her partner and 8 year old daughter. They live in a house which is close to the centre of Wombwell, near Barnsley. The whole of the ground floor, including downstairs bathroom are used for childminding. There is access to the rear yard for outdoor play. The childminder is registered for 4 children and is currently caring for 5 children on a part time basis.

The family has a fish tank with a selection of fish.

The childminder is a member of Barnsley Childminders Together and attends local play groups in the area.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a varied selection of activities which contribute to their good health as they visit the local parks and daily walks. They are encouraged develop positive steps for good healthy practices which help to prevent cross infection. Effective procedures are in place for when children become ill and detailed recordings are up to date for accidents. Children's awareness of germs is developed through discussion and good daily routines such as regular hand washing practices.

Nutritious food is provided and meal times are social occasions where children are given opportunities to enjoy their food, feed themselves and to develop their conversational skills. Written menus are displayed and shared with parents and take account of individual needs and the choices offered. The childminder recognises when children's behaviour changes as they become hungry and tired. She is aware and responds to non - verbal signals from younger children when they become unsettled with strangers and responds by offering support and toys to distract them.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean home where risks are identified and minimised which allows them to move around safely and independently. Outings to local parks are given high priority and the childminder is vigilant in checking the environment for safety before allowing children to play.

Daily communication with parents is maintained which develops a strong partnership between all those involved in keeping their child safe. Required procedures and documents are in place to ensure children's welfare is promoted. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of child protection procedures of which she would like to develop further.

Children independently self select toys from a good range of toys and equipment which promotes their choice. They are free to explore the safe environment which promotes their confidence and abilities as sharp corners are protected with sponge. Equipment is of a suitable design and helps to create a stimulating play area for children. Boxes and drawers are labelled with words and pictures to develop children's association and recognition.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and comfortable within the childminder's home. Time is given for children to learn at their own pace, as they make connections with each other and their environment. Children benefit from familiar routines established through effective communication with parents and the regular sharing of information.

Children develop independence as they choose from an interesting and stimulating balance of activities. Resources are readily accessible for children to support their learning. However, there is insufficient resources that reflect diversity, limiting children's awareness of the wider community.

Good opportunities allow children to explore the immediate environment, both indoors and outdoors, with interest and building on their natural curiosity. Craft activities are available for all children to enjoy. Children's work is displayed on the wall to promote their self esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the childminder's home fostering a sense of belonging and developing positive attitudes to each other. Children develop self confidence as the childminder responds to their individual differences and similarities, meeting their needs effectively. She ensures all children can take part in activities appropriate to their needs and abilities. She is successful in promoting an inclusive provision for all.

Children behave well, responding to clear and realistic boundaries. The consistent and positive approach to behaviour management effectively promotes children's welfare and development.

The childminder works successfully with parents to meet the needs of the children. Parents receive good quality information about the provision and information is shared effectively to keep parents well informed. The childminder liaises daily with parents taking heed of the information in order to meet individual needs. As a result, children are settled and content, promoting their well being. Close, warm relationships with the children allow them to express their feelings.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and comfortable with the childminder. She offers good levels of care and supervision to ensure children are well supported as they confidently explore the toys and activities.

Space and resources are organised to meet the children's needs successfully, which allows children to follow their individual routines promoting their welfare and development. She has completed appropriate courses and has effective skills to care for children.

The majority of documentation is in place to promote the care and welfare of children.

These are shared with parents to keep them informed about the service and how it contributes to the care of their children.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection several issues were raised. The childminder was asked to keep a register of children's attendance, maintain good hygiene practices, ensure trailing cables do not present a risk to children and develop a range of multi-cultural resources.

The childminder has addressed these issues and there is an attendance book in place that is appropriately maintained. Children are encouraged to follow good hygiene practices that have been established. Trailing cables are now contained and the telephone has been re-sited to minimise risks to children. Children now have access to some multi-cultural resources and this still needs to be developed further.

These help to enhance the care provided for children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There has been no complaints since 1st April 2004.

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):

- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures
- evaluate the ways in which children's awareness of difference and diversity is promoted, and plan to offer a wider choice of resources and activities.

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