

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	321160
Inspection date	15 January 2008
Inspector	Lindsey Pollock
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 1985. She lives in a house with her husband and adult son in Woodthorpe on the outskirts of York. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed back garden for outside play. Schools and pre-school facilities are within walking distance. The family has two dogs, two cockatiels and a chinchilla.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. There are currently eight children under eight years and six children over eight years on roll. Children attend at various times.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean environment which helps to protect their health. The childminder actively carries out good hygiene practices to prevent the spread of infection and keep children healthy. For example, she ensures that all food preparation areas are clean, toys are washed

frequently, and effective procedures are followed for nappy changing. Older children access the bathroom independently and are developing an understanding of good hygiene practices as they wash their hands and dry them on the paper towels to help prevent the spread of germs. A first aid course has been completed and the contents of the first aid box are checked and replaced as necessary to fully safeguard children's welfare. Children enjoy a good variety of physical activities and outings in the fresh air which contribute to keeping them fit and well. They walk to and from school, and to the social groups where they are able to develop their large physical skills. A wide range of equipment is also available in the childminder's garden so children can play in the fresh air.

Children's individual dietary needs are met by healthy and nutritious snacks. The childminder works with parents regarding arrangements for meals, and explains to them how she will promote healthy eating. She talks with children about healthy choices and encourages them to try new foods and children happily eat vegetables and fruit.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. There is lots of space for them to move around freely and safely. At meal and snack times children sit happily together either at the family dining table or at small tables and chairs. Appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure children are able to sleep and rest if needed. Equipment is suitable for the age and development of the children and maintains their safety. Children self-select from a good range of safe toys that are stored in boxes at floor level.

Good steps are taken to keep children safe. For example, equipment such as cupboard safety catches, safety gates and electrical socket covers are in place. However, the glass in the patio doors is not identified to children and the bathroom lock is at an accessible height to them. These are potential risks to children's safety. The premises are secure and children are always where the childminder can see or hear them. The childminder has attended a fire safety course and has appropriate equipment in the home. She has identified a clear evacuation route and practises this regularly with the children to raise their awareness of what to do in an emergency.

Children are well protected. The childminder has completed child protection training and fully understands her responsibilities with regards to child protection. All required procedures and documentation regarding child protection are in place to enable her to safeguard children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and happy in the care of the childminder. There is lots of affection and warmth and the childminder interacts constantly with them encouraging their developing speech. Routines are consistent with home. This promotes children's sense of security.

Children attend lots of community groups where they learn to socialise with other children. They join in with a wide range of organised activities. These include arts and crafts when they experiment with materials like paint and plaster of Paris, and also join in outings and nature walks to places such as Hobb Moor. The childminder has a good understanding of how children learn and develop which means their care and play experiences meet their needs effectively. She is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and of how this promotes the outcomes

for very young children. At the childminder's home they enjoy a relaxed environment where they can choose freely from the toys and initiate their own play. They show good interest in small world equipment and in role play equipment, taking much delight in dressing up in the many outfits available to them. They play well together and have an increasing awareness of the importance of sharing and being kind to each other. Older children are fully consulted about what activities and outings they want to do.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have a good sense of belonging. They are warmly welcomed into the home and are treated with equal regard. The childminder knows them well, which enables individual needs to be successfully met. There is a range of resources and planned activities which help raise children's awareness and enjoy the diverse community. The childminder is a positive role model and encourages children to appreciate differences and respect others. The children behave well as a result of the childminder's positive approach. She uses praise, encouragement and diversion to reinforce good behaviour. Children are polite and well-mannered, for example, even the youngest children say 'please' and 'thank you' without prompting.

The childminder works well with parents. There is clear information for parents about the childminding service and daily verbal exchanges keep everyone up to date with children's care and development. The registration certificate and other information, such as, of how to contact Ofsted, is clearly displayed for parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is experienced and has cared for a wide age range of children since registration. She attends regular training to update her childcare knowledge and has completed a childcare qualification to help her develop her practice. All mandatory training requirements are met.

Children feel at home and relaxed in the well organised environment, resulting in them being confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Well organised but flexible daily routines and activities mean that each child has an opportunity for individual attention as the childminder balances their varying needs. For example, younger children enjoy the childminder's undivided attention when the older children are at school.

Good quality records and policies and procedures are in place. All are kept appropriately and safeguard children's welfare. Records are shared regularly with parents to keep them informed about the service, the activities and the care provided for their children. This contributes to continuity in the children's care.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has continued to enhance equal opportunities resources to raise children's awareness of diversity. She has improved fire safety precautions by practising and recording fire drills. This helps to safeguard children's welfare.

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):

- ensure children are unable to lock themselves in the bathroom and make sure they are aware of the glass in the patio doors.

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