

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY233901
Inspection date	25 June 2007
Inspector	Diane Lynn Turner
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 has been registered since November 2002. She lives with her family in a semi-detached house in York. All of the ground floor of the childminder's home and two bedrooms and the bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden at the rear of the house for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time. She is currently caring for six children, five of whom are under five years old. They all attend on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder follows effective practices in her daily routines to promote children's health and help prevent the risk of infection. For example, she cleans the toys on a regular basis, wears disposable gloves when changing children's nappies and has a written statement that informs parents of the procedures she follows if a child becomes ill whilst in her care. Children learn to

follow effective practices in their self-care. For example, the childminder ensures they wash their hands before eating, after messy play and after toileting and explains the reasons for this.

Children are cared for appropriately in the event of an accident. The childminder holds a valid first aid qualification and has three appropriately stocked first aid boxes, one of which is kept in the car and another that she puts in her bag when out and about in the local area. Accidents are clearly recorded and parents are given a copy to ensure they are fully informed. Parental permission has also been gained for the seeking of medical advice or treatment in an emergency, further ensuring children's good health.

The childminder provides a range of opportunities to help children develop their physical skills. For example, they are able to play in the garden, which has resources, such as a slide, swing, wheeled toys and a playhouse, and they regularly visit the local parks. The childminder also encourages the children to walk whenever possible and limits the use of the car. For example, they walk to and from playgroup and school, which ensures they get plenty of fresh air.

Children are offered nutritious meals and snacks that contribute effectively to a healthy diet. The childminder finds out about any dietary needs the children may have and meets these when providing food to ensure they remain healthy. They are offered a light lunch, such as sandwiches, vegetable sticks, dips and fresh fruit, and a cooked evening meal is provided if parents require this when dishes such as casseroles and homemade pizza are offered, all of which are prepared using fresh ingredients. The childminder ensures the children have plenty to drink to prevent them becoming dehydrated. Water, milk or diluted fresh fruit juice is offered and children have their cups readily available so they can access these as and when they want. The childminder does not offer drinks that may have a high sugar content, such as squash.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a child-orientated home. For example, child-height furniture is provided and their artwork is displayed in both the lounge and dining room, which makes it a welcoming environment and shows their efforts are valued and appreciated.

The childminder has identified most risks to the children's safety within the home and has taken action to address these. For example, both the house and outdoor area are kept secure at all times, cupboard locks are in place and she regularly checks the smoke detectors to ensure these remain in working order. A safety gate prevents children's access to the kitchen and to the stairs when very young children attend. The childminder has not, however, taken action to ensure the cords on the blind in the bathroom are inaccessible to children so that they do not pose a choking hazard. In addition, at the inspection visit the childminder requested use of two of the bedrooms for supervised play but she has not yet taken action to ensure these are safe. For example, some electrical sockets do not have covers and there is some large gym equipment stored in one room. She is, however, aware of the action she must take and knows this must be completed before children use the rooms.

The childminder is effective in helping children to learn about keeping themselves safe. For example, she practises the emergency evacuation procedures with them so they know what to do in the event of fire and she helps them to learn about road safety as they go for walks by making sure they use appropriate crossings.

Children have access to a range of toys and resources that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. The childminder checks these on a regular basis to ensure they are safe for the children's use and removes any broken items for repair or disposal. She ensures the toys are easily accessible to the children so they can choose what they want to play with, and rotates them on a regular basis to maintain their interest.

Children are appropriately protected from possible abuse. The childminder is able to recognise the possible indicators of abuse or neglect and understands her responsibilities in reporting her concerns. She has provision to record any existing injuries but she does not have up to date information regarding the contact numbers and referral procedures for the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle very well at the childminder's home. She has a caring manner, is very attentive and interacts extremely well with the children as they play. As a result, they develop very positive relationships with her, clearly feel part of the family and make good progress in their learning.

The childminder meets the needs of all the ages of children who attend very well. She plans the activities she offers each week and she links these to a theme to ensure they are varied and interesting. For example, young children are offered activities, such as playing with sand, and have regular opportunities to take part in messy play activities, such as exploring the texture of paint. For example, they become fully immersed as they use their hands and vegetables to make prints, watching in fascination as they the colours change as they mix these together on the paper. They also have opportunities to play freely with the toys within the home and to take part in a planned baking activity each week. This is an area the childminder particularly enjoys and she shares her interest enthusiastically with the children as she helps them to make items, such as bread, biscuits and cakes. Photographs also show them enjoying art and craft activities, such as making paper hats, making necklaces from pasta and playing with dough.

The childminder also offers children good opportunities to take part in a range of activities outside the home. For example, they attend the local toddler group each week, which provides them with valuable opportunities to socialise with others and join in with a range of activities, such as music. They also take part in gardening activities at the childminder's home when they plant and care for vegetables, such as courgettes, carrots and spring onions which, when fully grown, they will be able to eat at mealtimes. They develop their communication skills through activities, such as listening to stories and singing, and they explore resources, such as small world, which help them to develop their imagination. They respond with delight to the activities provided and lots of laughter is evident as the childminder joins in with their play and promotes their learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are highly valued and respected as individuals and the childminder meets their needs very well. For example, she uses the registration form to gather useful information about their care needs and ensures they follow their daily routines as discussed with their parents. Many of the children have been in the childminder's care since they were babies and she knows them well. She speaks very fondly of them and always celebrates special events in their lives,

such as birthdays by marking the occasion with a cake. Children with learning difficulties or disabilities are welcome to attend. There are none currently attending but the childminder understands about making any necessary adaptations to ensure all children are included and of the importance of working closely with parents.

The childminder is very conscious of the need to help children learn about other cultures and customs, and to treat people as individuals irrespective of their background. She provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. For example, they have regular access to resources, such as small world figures, and a good range of books showing positive images of other cultures and disability. They also celebrate both their own customs and those of others as they learn about the Chinese New Year, Ramadam, Christmas and Easter. They have good opportunities to learn about their local community. For example, they regularly visit the local parks and other attractions, such as museums and the library.

The childminder has a very good understanding of behaviour management and is a very good role model for the children to follow. She is extremely patient in her approach, has a very calm, caring manner and effectively explains boundaries at the children's level of understanding so they know what they can and cannot do. She consistently uses praise and encouragement and delights in their achievements. As a result, children behave well and learn to understand right from wrong. For example, they know to sit at the table to eat and to put an apron on before taking part in messy play.

High priority is given to establishing a positive partnership with parents. The childminder encourages them to make several visits before the placement begins and she provides concise written information about the service. Contracts are drawn up and agreed by both parties as to the care arrangements, all necessary permissions are obtained and parents are kept well informed about their child's activities. For example, they are welcome to stay and chat at the end of the day. Parents spoken to at the inspection and written testimonials show they are very satisfied with the care the childminder provides. For example, they state they would not hesitate in recommending her to others.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well-organised home, where best use is made of the available space. Children are comfortable in their surrounding and clearly feel at home. The childminder is clear of her responsibilities when caring for children and ensures she adheres to her conditions of registration at all times. The registration certificate is displayed and appropriate insurance is in place.

The childminder has the necessary documentation to help the service operate smoothly and efficiently, including child, attendance, accident and medication records. All of which are organised appropriately. For example, attendance records are kept up to date and include a tick sheet to record when the children arrive and leave.

The childminder has procedures in place to enable her to seek the assistance of a nominated person in an emergency and she has devised a system for keeping a record of any complaints that may be received from parents. This does not, however, reflect the recent changes in legislation. In addition, up to date information is not in place to enable her to follow the correct Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures should she have a child protection concern.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve the safety and the resources to support children's understanding of diversity.

Both recommendations have been addressed. She has made electrical cables safe by removing the computer from the dining room and securing a loose cable to the wall in the outdoor area and has purchased small world figures and a range of books which reflect positive images of culture and disability.

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

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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 the cords on the bathroom blind are safe or inaccessible to children
- ensure the spare bedroom is made safe before children use this, including removing the gym equipment and ensuring all unused sockets are made safe or inaccessible
- obtain current information regarding the referral procedures and contact numbers for the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- improve the system for recording any complaints that may be received from parents to ensure this is in line with the recent changes in legislation.

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