

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY240304
Inspection date	24 May 2007
Inspector	Angela Howard
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 was registered in 2002. She lives with her husband and adult son. They live in Wombwell, a large residential area in the borough of Barnsley. The whole of the ground floor, plus toilet facilities on the first floor of the premises are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have a dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She currently has five children under eight years old on roll. The childminder walks to take and collect children from the local school. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local 'childminder's together' support group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment that is clean and well maintained. They are appropriately protected from illness and infection as they follow suitable hygiene procedures. They are encouraged to learn the importance of personal hygiene through appropriate practice and daily

routines. This helps them to understand simple health and hygiene procedures. Effective measures are in place to prevent the spread of infection. For example, a clear sickness policy is shared with all parents, which ensures children who are ill do not attend. The childminder maintains clear records of any accidents and any medication administered to ensure children's medical needs are met appropriately.

Children are appropriately nourished because they are provided with a healthy and nutritionally balanced range of snacks and meals, which are prepared from fresh wholesome food. Children thoroughly enjoy shepherd's pie, pasta bake and spaghetti bolognese. All food served takes into account children's religious and dietary requirements plus parents' wishes. This is essential for their well-being, health and development.

The childminder follows children's individual eating and sleeping routines that have been agreed with parents. Therefore, children are well-rested and alert and so enjoy their play. This ensures children thrive as their nutritional and emotional needs are met successfully.

Children's physical health is successfully promoted as they enjoy daily exercise as they walk to and from school some days. Younger children enjoy attending soft play areas and visiting the local park for activities, such as playing football, running and climbing on large apparatus. They thoroughly enjoy playing outdoors at darts, basketball and golf. Therefore, children are developing their physical skills in a positive manner.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are child friendly and positive arrangements are in place to ensure that children are able to move around the designated play areas independently. Effective safety measures are in place like socket covers, fireguards, low-level cupboards have locks fitted and the premises are kept secure. However, the gate in the outdoor play area is not secure. Appropriate fire precautions are in place. For example, smoke alarms are in working order, exits are clear of obstruction and there is a clear fire evacuation plan which is practised with the children. This ensures children are cared for in a safe environment.

Children self select activities from a wide range of good quality resources and equipment that meet safety standards. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to ensure that they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder has an acceptable knowledge and understanding of her responsibilities with regards to child protection. She has appropriate Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and appropriate systems in place to record and report any suspected child abuse. However, the childminder understands the need to talk to parents about existing injuries but does not record the details. This compromises children's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children make decisions about what they would like to do. They have free access to a wide range of play materials and activities which stimulate and interest them. For example, they play cooperatively with the golf clubs, basketball net and board games. This results in children enjoying a balanced range of appropriate activities and experiences, which help them to make progress in all areas. The childminder is well aware of the different needs of children and allows

time and space for them to play or relax quietly. The range of equipment is linked to the individual needs and interests of children attending. Older children enjoy more relaxed activities, such as reading and drawing. Therefore, they spend their time purposefully and enjoy playing with the resources provided.

The relationship between the children and childminder is very warm and caring. They benefit greatly from the childminder being interested in them and listening attentively to them. She gives lots of praise and encouragement to develop their confidence and self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder values children's attempts and achievements. She makes children feel good about themselves through regular meaningful praise and offers lots of encouragement. For example, she congratulates the children each time they score at basketball or darts. This results in children being independent and feeling safe and secure, through which they develop self-confidence, a belief in themselves and a healthy self-esteem.

Children have a clear understanding of boundaries and expectations, therefore, behave well. The methods for managing behaviour are sensitive and take into account each child's level of understanding. The result is that children understand responsible behaviour and respond well to secure boundaries. Children show care and concern for each other and play harmoniously.

Friendly relationships with parents and carers enables parents and the childminder to work together to meet children's needs successfully. Ongoing verbal communication ensures that parents are kept up-to-date about their child's care and progress. Children are clearly benefiting from this positive partnership and are settled in response to this. The childminder states parents are encouraged to share any concerns and that she has a clear procedure to follow. However, she has only a very basic understanding of the requirement to record complaints. This is a clear breach of regulations.

Children's awareness of the local community and wider world is promoted appropriately through regular visits to local places of interest. They have equal access to all resources which positively address diversity.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home in the warm, friendly environment. The childminder manages her time appropriately to ensure she supports children's care and well-being. For example, she gives them time and attention to make them feel secure. The children move around the home confidently and are clearly happy and settled, which contributes to their overall well-being.

Appropriate documentation is in place and stored appropriately to maintain confidentiality. However, the registration certificate is not displayed. The childminder has a reasonable understanding of her responsibilities and organises her service effectively to promote children's care and well-being. Required adult-child ratios are met and provide appropriate levels of care and supervision to ensure children are appropriately supported. The childminder is keen to further her development as a childminder and has attended some additional training, including child protection, food hygiene, autism awareness and working with babies under three years of age. 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 two recommendations were made. One relating to developing knowledge of child protection issues and one to obtain more resources that reflect diversity.

The childminder has attended relevant child protection training and has developed an understanding of child protection issues. Therefore, children's safety is promoted. The childminder has begun to purchase books and resources that positively reflect diversity. This results in children having access to a broad range of activities.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- make the outdoor play area secure
- ensure clear procedures are in place for the recording of child protection issues
- develop a system for the recording of complaints, in line with regulations
- ensure the registration certificate is displayed, in line with registration requirements.

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