

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY279773
Inspection date	30 April 2007
Inspector	Jill Lee
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 2004. He lives with his wife and their two children, aged five years and two years, in the High Green area of Sheffield. His wife works with him as a co-childminder.

The downstairs only of the home is used for childminding activities. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder may care for a maximum of four children at any one time, when working alone, and five children when working with his wife. He is currently caring for five children.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. He has a food hygiene qualification and has recently undertaken child protection training.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children become aware of the importance of good hygiene in everyday routines. For example, they know they must have clean hands before they eat. They are protected from infection, as the childminder implements appropriate health and hygiene guidelines in his practice.

Arrangements for first aid and administering medication protect children effectively, although parental consents for administration of medication are not sufficiently clearly recorded.

The childminder works closely with his wife to negotiate appropriate arrangements for meals and drinks. Children's individual dietary needs are met by healthy and nutritious meals and snacks. The childminder talks with children about healthy choices at meal times. He encourages them to try new foods and helps them learn to feed themselves independently. Children sometimes help to prepare food for meals, for instance, buttering bread for sandwiches. Everyone sits together at the big table at meal times, which are relaxed and sociable.

Children are able to access the outdoor environment freely. They enjoy physical activities and lots of outings in the fresh air. Appropriate arrangements are made to ensure sufficient shade in hot weather. They experience a variety of physical play activities, as they use a wide range of play equipment in the garden. They love it when the childminder pushes them high on the swings. They play ball and enjoy chasing the childminder round and round the garden. Children have opportunities to develop their large physical skills, as they regularly visit local toddler groups and soft play centres, where they use the large play equipment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder assesses risks effectively to promote children's safety. Children use a broad range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. They are cared for in a safe and very child friendly home. The childminder organises space well to reduce potential hazards, which actively encourages independence. Children use the whole environment freely and can visit the toilet independently.

Children's awareness of risk and safety is raised in everyday activities. They learn to stay beside the childminder and hold his hand when they are out walking. He talks with the children about the need to take care when getting out of the car in car parks. The childminder has a well considered plan for emergency evacuation, which he practises with the children. He ensures children are carefully supervised, so that risk of accidents is minimised. They learn to manage activities safely and help to tidy away toys when they have finished playing, so the playroom is safe.

The childminder understands his responsibilities within child protection procedures. He has a good relationship with parents and discusses any concerns, to ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded. Appropriate recording systems are in place. He has attended recent training to update his knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, but is not sufficiently familiar with the most recent child protection guidance or the procedures and contact details of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happily settled in the childminder's care. They develop confidence as he plays with them and supports their interests. They enjoy varied and interesting activities, using a wide range of resources. He observes their play to find out what they enjoy and plans experiences around their interests.

Children love activities outdoors, like planting onions and beans and looking for spiders under the plants. Their language skills develop well as they talk about what they are doing. They squeal with delight, as they chase the bubbles blowing into the wind. They love making sand pies. Craft activities are a great favourite with everyone and the childminder plans different activities according to the season. For example, they have made Easter baskets. They get crayons and paper independently from the cupboard. They concentrate for long periods, as they do jigsaws and play with the 'weebles'. Children love reading stories and are able to sit quietly reading their favourite books.

The childminder is responsive to individual needs and appropriately supports children's play. They learn to share and understand why it is important for everyone to have a turn. He is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework but has not attended any training to enhance his awareness of ways to plan and enrich the play experiences of younger children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children enjoy warm and trusting relationships with the childminder. Daily routines are relaxed and child-led and children are able to access resources independently. They learn to manage their own needs, for example, when they decide they want to play in the garden. The childminder knows the children well and is supportive of their plans.

Children are helped to feel good about themselves, as the childminder gives lots of praise and encouragement. They learn to share and cooperate as they play. The childminder talks about being kind and helpful to each other as they play in the sand. Children enjoy varied experiences in their local community, as they enjoy regular outings to local groups and parks. The childminder uses lots of resources reflecting diversity to promote children's awareness of difference.

The childminder works closely with parents, alongside his wife. He shares information about their childcare practice. He has a detailed information folder giving details of their policies. He is beginning to develop photographic scrapbooks of children's activities to share with their parents. Lots of photographs of activities are displayed on the playroom walls. Relationships with parents are relaxed and comfortable and information about children is shared on a daily basis. The contracts and written consents agreed with parents formally reflect the co-childminding arrangement. The childminder has a written complaints policy, which is shared with parents, and they are clearly advised of how to raise any concerns. The policy refers to the role of the regulator but the contact details are not up-to-date. The childminder is not sufficiently familiar with current guidance regarding the management of complaints.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's individual needs are supported well, within an organised and safe environment. The childminder and his wife enable children to use the whole environment, both indoors and out, with safety. He accesses appropriate training and development opportunities to enhance his child care practice.

Children are kept safe and their welfare is effectively safeguarded by the childminder's clear understanding and implementation of most required policies and procedures. He clearly understands requirements with regard to reaching agreements with parents. Most documentation is readily available for inspection. The registration certificate is shown to parents, but is not displayed clearly as required. Contracts and written consents agreed with parents fully reflect the co-childminding arrangement.

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 obtain information about notifiable illnesses for reference and to review and extend the range of resources which reflect culture, gender and disability as new toys, books and play materials are purchased. He was also asked to update his awareness of child protection guidance and procedures and to review the behaviour management policy and practice to ensure that a consistent approach is maintained within the joint practice.

The childminder is well organised and ensures that most documentation is readily available for inspection. However, he was unable to locate the information about notifiable illnesses, which his wife has obtained from the health visitor. He has, so far, not included this in the information shared with parents. He talks fully with parents about the importance of sharing health information and ensures they understand that sick children cannot be cared for. This helps to ensure that children are protected from infection.

The childminder has obtained a varied range of resources, which reflect people from other cultures and with disabilities. These include play people, jigsaws and books. He also occasionally uses the library to extend the range of books available. This is helping to promote a wider variety of activities to raise children's awareness of difference and diversity.

The childminder has attended a child protection training course, which has helped to clarify his understanding of his role and responsibilities in protecting children. He is clearly aware of the need to share his child protection role with parents and his responsibility to record any concerns. The childminder is still not sufficiently familiar with the procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, which impacts on his ability to manage concerns appropriately to protect children.

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):

- increase awareness of the procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and ensure appropriate contact details are available
- develop a clearer understanding of ways to plan effectively to enhance the experiences of younger children
- improve knowledge and develop systems for recording of complaints, in line with regulations.

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