

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	302675
Inspection date	20 August 2007
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 registered in 1998. She lives with her husband and adult daughter. The family lives in Elsecar, near Barnsley. They are close to local amenities, shops, and schools. Children have access to the lounge, dining kitchen, conservatory, and downstairs bathroom facilities. There is an enclosed garden to the rear for outdoor play. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools. The childminder may care for six children at any one time and is currently caring for 11 children on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Barnsley childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well-maintained environment and the childminder actively promotes hygiene routines to prevent the spread of infection and keep children healthy. The childminder acts in the best interest of the children when they are ill and clear procedures

protect others from illness and infection. Permission forms are in place for first aid and the administering of medication ensuring children are protected. However, there is no recording of medication given.

Children enjoy a good variety of healthy snacks and drinks, which take into account children's dietary needs and parents' wishes. They engage in meaningful discussion and make picture displays of different kinds of food showing children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activity each day. Regular visits to parks and regular walks allow children to develop their all round physical skills. There is access to a fully enclosed garden where they can play with outdoor equipment, such as wheeled toys and a slide. For younger children there is a varied selection of everyday objects to squeeze and hold to encourage exploration.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in safe and well-maintained premises. Positive steps are taken to ensure children are able to move around play areas independently. Children learn about safety issues through discussion and everyday routines. On outings they understand that they must always stay near the childminder or hold hands. Children discuss how the wearing of brightly coloured tabards help to keep them safe. Children learn how to keep safe when crossing roads. They have a good awareness of fire safety and emergency procedures because they have been involved in routine fire drills. Older children talk through with the childminder what they would do if there was an emergency situation considering, for example, where they could safely go for help.

Good quality resources are easily accessed allowing children to make choices in a safe manner. Thorough monitoring of children's toys and activities ensure they remain safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Children are well protected as the childminder has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities regarding child protection matters. She has a clear understanding of child protection procedures and recognises the signs and symptoms of possible abuse. She has attended relevant training to support her practice in this area and has a firm commitment to the welfare of all children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and content. They are confident and settled within the environment. There are good daily routines in place, which help children to feel secure and at ease in their surroundings. These routines follow individual patterns and allow children to pursue their own interests so that they discover more about what they like and dislike.

Children make their own choices about their play from a wide range of resources. They are encouraged to access resources themselves, developing their independence. Themed activities involve a variety of outings along with a wide selection of books and jigsaws that follow the theme. Children recall a recent train journey. Younger children engage in concentrated imaginative play in which they extend their language, try out new ideas and select suitable resources as they engage in activities. Children access an interesting range of activities and

experiences, appropriate to the age and stage of children's development. For example, children discuss planting sunflowers, strawberries and onions.

Children relate very well to the childminder. They share a warm and caring relationship with each other and form good friendships. Children are learning appropriate social skills and enjoy being with and talking to adults and other children. This results in them being able to build meaningful relationships. Young children indicate toys and activities they want to play with and the childminder responds by getting involved with their play. She enthusiastically follows their lead as they explore their environment, people and resources.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's needs are met well as the childminder takes time to get to know the children and their families. Their individual routines are followed successfully as the childminder works closely with parents. Children are very happy and content within the environment. They have formed good relationships with each other, the childminder and her family. Children are independent as they are familiar with daily routines. They are confident and show a strong sense of belonging.

Children's awareness of the local community is promoted well through regular outings to places of interest. Children are beginning to learn about the wider world. However, they only have access to a limited range of resources that positively address diversity, including books, small role-play people and dolls.

A clear and consistent approach to managing children's behaviour effectively encourages children to behave well. They learn right from wrong in a warm and caring environment. Children know what is expected of them as they are given clear instruction and guidance. For example, they are given clear explanations when they are asked to conform or, in the case of younger children, distraction techniques are used effectively.

Partnerships with parents and carers are good which contributes to the children's overall well being. Activity plans are on display for parents on the notice board. Parents receive a newsletter informing them of activities and keeping them up to date. Children are very settled and clearly benefit from the positive partnership.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease in their surroundings. The premises are very well organised. Space is used very effectively to maximise play opportunities for children. This results in children remaining settled and feeling secure in their surroundings.

The childminder is enthusiastic and displays a positive commitment towards ongoing training. She takes full advantage of training opportunities to widen her knowledge and understanding of relevant practices. She ensures that she keeps up to date with current childcare issues by attending relevant training courses and workshops.

Most of the required documentation is in place and organised securely with confidentiality in mind. There are written policies and procedures to support the childminder's practice. These

are shared with parents. The childminder has good links with the local childminder groups and support network.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was required to address a number of issues related to record keeping. She has reviewed all of her paperwork and now makes sure that she has parental consents regarding children's access to pets. At the time of the inspection, the pets were in a cattery. She also has a system in place for the recording of any existing injuries and this is countersigned by parents. These measures help to safeguard children in the event of an accident or when in contact with pets.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been two complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider to take action to meet the National Standards. The complaints related to National Standard 1, Suitable Person, and National Standard 6, Safety. Concerns were raised regarding the numbers of children being cared for and the transporting of children in the car. Ofsted conducted an investigation. As a result, the provider ensures that conditions of registration are maintained at all times and children are appropriately restrained when travelling in the car. Ofsted was satisfied that by taking these steps the provider remains qualified for registration.

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 provider has recorded all complaints made to Ofsted by parents.

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 a system of recording medication is in place and countersigned by parents
- further develop resources that reflect diversity.

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