



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	400808
Inspection date	22 June 2005
Inspector	Christine Snowdon

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 1998. She lives with her husband and their three children aged 10, 15 and 21. They live in a semi-detached house, in a residential area on the outskirts of Harrogate. They are within walking distance of the local school and amenities. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time, and is currently caring for four children aged under five. One child attends full-time and the others part-time. The childminder takes children to the local toddler and

childminding groups. The family have a pet rabbit.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local childminding support group. She holds a level 3 qualification in early years and has obtained the North Yorkshire Kite mark Accreditation.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive due to the childminders highly effective procedures and practices. All areas used are exceptionally clean and well maintained. Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene as they observe the excellent routines in place. For example, children wash their hands regularly using liquid soap and separate hand towels. Risk of cross infection for younger children is reduced by the childminder using separate changing mats, individual wipes and face cloths.

Children benefit from a very healthy and nutritious diet. The childminder is very conscious of healthy eating and provides parents with sample menus. She provides a very varied and highly nutritious diet which contains plenty of fresh fruit, vegetables and fish. Food is grilled to reduce any fat content. All children have easy access to water and drinks throughout the day. Toddlers have feeder cups and are given additional drinks at mealtimes and after sleep. Mealtimes are made enjoyable and fun as they listen to music and nursery rhymes.

The children's physical health is developing exceptionally well due to the activities provided. They enjoy climbing, jumping and balancing at the soft play sessions. They peddle, steer and negotiate wheeled toys at toddler group and in the outside play area. They walk regularly when out and about with the childminder. These contributes effectively to their good health and physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a very safe and secure environment. All risks of accidental injury to children are minimised, due to the childminder high level of supervision and regular risk assessments. Her in-depth health and safety policy is shared with parents and used effectively to support her practice. This includes an emergency plan and fire evacuation procedure. All relevant safety equipment is in place and used effectively to keep them safe. Safety straps are worn at all times by younger children when using high chairs and pushchairs.

Children are learning about the dangers of traffic when out in the local community. The younger children wear reins whilst older ones hold her hand or the pushchair. They observe and learn how to cross the road safely by using the pelican crossing.

The childminder takes all necessary steps to promote safe play. She ensures

children are closely supervised at all times. Equipment and resources are checked and monitored to ensure they are age appropriate and safe for all ages. Separate areas of the home are used so that older children can play safely with small items away from the younger ones.

The children's welfare is very well promoted by the childminder. She has an in-depth knowledge and understanding of child protection and first aid which she keeps up to date by regular training. She uses her documentation very well to support this aspect of her practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and happy in the childminders home due to her caring and welcoming approach. They are very confident in their surroundings and benefit from the consistent routine that reflects and meets their individual needs well. Children are becoming independent, they self-select resources and instigate their own play. Younger ones are encouraged to feed themselves and they can hold their own beakers to drink.

Children benefit from a wide range of fun and learning experiences as part of their everyday routine. They socialise every morning with other children at toddler and soft play sessions, where they develop their creative, imaginative and physical skills. Whilst younger children enjoy their sleep after lunch, the older ones have one to one time with the childminder for more focussed activities, such as; baking, or planting and growing seeds. All children enjoy creative play, and show pleasure and enjoyment when using paint to make foot and hand prints. Children's language and coordination is developing well through positive activities and interaction with the childminder. They have regular singing sessions and younger ones are starting to copy the hand gestures for rhymes such as; "twinkle, twinkle little star".

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children have access to, and use a good range of resources to promote a positive awareness of the wider world. There is an excellent range of books covering all aspects. Children access these themselves and enjoy sitting with the childminder listening to stories and having positive discussions. They learn about the local community and the environment they live in from their daily trips out and about. They gain a very positive understanding of similarities and differences, as they socialise with a wide range of children and adults from a variety of cultures and lifestyles. Children have excellent opportunities to share their family experiences and events with one another. For example, they all bring photographs of their families and pets for the big scrap book. They get a great deal of pleasure from looking at it, and recalling their experiences. They have fun together celebrating one another's birthdays with a small party and cake which the childminder provides for them all.

Children show care and concern for each other. They are encouraged to take turns, share equipment and play well together. They know their efforts are valued and appreciated from her positive praise and encouragement, and reward stickers. The childminder has a sound knowledge and professional approach which she uses effectively to promote positive behaviour. She has high expectations and works very closely with the parents to develop effective strategies and support for children.

Children are highly valued and respected as individuals. They are very happy and settled and enjoy a close and caring relationship with the childminder. Their individual needs are met exceptionally well and the consistent daily routine reflects that of home. The excellent partnership with the parents contributes significantly to the children's care and well-being. Parents views are actively sought, and they receive written and verbal feedback on a daily basis. Their many letters of thanks signify high levels of satisfaction.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is greatly enhanced by the childminders commitment to her own training and development. The North Yorkshire Kite mark reflects her hard work and good practices.

Children feel very welcome and at home in the well organised environment. As a result they are confident in their surroundings, select their own resources and initiate their own play. The childminder is very well organised and uses her time effectively with the children to ensure their individual needs are met well. There is a wide range of detailed policies and procedures in place and the majority are used effectively to support her practice. However, parents are not signing to acknowledge the entry after medication has been given. There is a very detailed and informative parents prospectus in place which gives them a clear understanding of her service. There are excellent methods in place for sharing information with them, such as; daily diaries and verbal feedback. Overall the provision meets the needs of all children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has extended her written policies and procedures to include; behaviour management, equal opportunities and sickness policy. These are all shared with the parents and used effectively to enhance her good practice.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 parents sign to acknowledge the entry following administration of medication.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk