

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300075
Inspection date	01 August 2007
Inspector	Geneen Yvonne Hulse-Brown
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 1989. She lives with her family in a detached property in Sheffield. Local shops, schools and parks are within walking distance. The childminder has three grown up children.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, this includes a kitchen-cum-dining room, lounge and hallway. There is access to the upstairs bathroom. Children have access to a fully enclosed area for outdoor play to the rear of the property. The family has a rabbit and two cats.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding three children who attend on a full and part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy regular outings to the park and playing outside to contribute to keeping them healthy. They develop good control of their bodies as they play chase and climb up the slide in the garden. Children undertake a balanced range of fun activities, as they confidently spoon sand into buckets and pots in the sand tray and talk to the family pets. The childminder takes the children to the local playgroup, to visit the pond and for walks to broaden their interest in the environment.

Children start to know when they are hungry and need a drink, as they help themselves to their own cups when they are thirsty and ask for fruit. Children receive healthy snacks of fruit and juice, requesting banana and apple to eat. Parents provide packed lunches for the children, which the childminder stores appropriately and serves to the children as part of a social event where they sit and eat together. The childminder has a sound awareness of children's likes, dislikes and allergies, demonstrating a positive commitment to healthy eating.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean environment, where they start to learn good personal care. The childminder helps them wash their hands before eating and wipes noses as required. She demonstrates a consistent approach to hygiene by helping the children learn good practice through daily routines.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are looked after in a welcoming and child friendly home, as the childminder ensures all risks are minimised. They are developing their independence, as they move freely around the home and learn how to keep themselves safe. The childminder reminds them to be steady when climbing on the slide and not to throw sand as it will hurt if it goes in someone's eyes. She uses language appropriate to the children's level of understanding to reinforce acceptable practice.

Children choose what to play with from a balanced range of toys and equipment that meets safety standards. Boxes of toys and games are set out at floor level in all rooms of the home for the children to help themselves and make secure choices. The childminder maintains realistic levels of supervision, appropriate to the children's ages and abilities by allowing them space to explore, whilst always knowing what they are doing. She sensitively reminds them to put toys back and tidy away to prevent accidents.

The childminder shows a positive regard for the children's well-being. She has all required safety equipment available, including a fire blanket in the kitchen. The childminder's first aid certificate has recently expired, which is a breach of registration. She demonstrates a sound understanding of child protection issues, although she has a limited knowledge of the Local Safeguarding Children Board's recommendations. The childminder has all required record books for recording accidents, incidents, medication and concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well at the childminder home, involving themselves in a balanced range of fun activities. They develop their independence as they choose toys and play alongside each other. Children demonstrate varying degrees of confidence, smiling at visitors whilst seeking reassurance from the childminder. They happily make sand pies and run around the garden giggling and laughing together. Children fetch books for the childminder to read to them and point out insects in the garden.

The children make positive choices from toys that are easily available around the home and suitable for their ages and abilities. They enjoy using crayons to make pictures and squeezing play dough, exploring their creativity. Children act out role using dolls and teddies, cuddling their favourite toys from home. They listen to stories with interest as the childminder encourages them to look at colours, join in counting and learn new words. The childminder is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework although she does not actively use it in her work.

Children establish caring relationships with their childminder, playing together and having fun. They develop sound self-esteem, as the childminder uses consistent praise and encouragement. The children enjoy a flexible routine that they know and understand, including outings, time to play in the garden and space to make choices. They enjoy playing with 'cause and effect' toys, pushing buttons to see what happens and pushing cars along imaginary roads.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy playing with an appropriate range of toys and activities that promotes their self-esteem. The childminder uses all resources to introduce children to the world around them and promote a positive view of diversity. Children come from a variety of backgrounds and share their home experiences, as they confidently make choices and start to ask questions. Children with English as an additional language are well supported as the childminder uses a few words in the children's home language and introduces new words when reading stories and playing games.

Children's behaviour is good as they learn acceptable practice due to the childminder's clear understanding and knowledge of the children in her care. The children follow agreed daily routines, as the childminder endeavours to offer a consistent home environment to the children. The childminder recognises the abilities of the children in her care and supports them to try new skills and try new experiences. She recognises when children need individual attention and responds accordingly offering reassuring cuddles.

Children learn to share and take turns due to the childminder's positive approach. Parents establish good relationships with the childminder to provide a consistent approach to the care of the children. The childminder shares information verbally on a daily basis. She does not have any information for parents about the complaints procedure or the role of Ofsted, which is a requirement. The childminder demonstrates a basic understanding of her role in responding to complaints should she receive one. Children are secure, happy and start to make decisions about what to do at their childminder's home.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are relaxed and at home in a fun and caring environment where they can make choices and develop their independence. The childminder shares information on a daily basis verbally and maintains all required records for registration. Her records are not routinely updated and organised in an effective manner to support her work practice. Children's records are maintained confidentially.

The childminder works to a structured routine which is flexible enough to meet the needs of the individual children who attend. She supports and guides the children to extend their play and learning. Available space in the home offers children a fun and stimulating environment. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Actions from the previous inspection relating to documentation and recording have been addressed by using some of the National Childminding Association publications. They are not sufficiently organised to effectively support the childminder's work.

The recommendation raised at the last inspection relating to children having freer access to a wide range of resources has been suitably addressed. Children make independent choices from a balanced range of toys and equipment set out at floor level around the home both indoors and outside.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 complaint 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):

- access a first aid course for working with children and babies
- develop an understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board recommendations
- provide a written statement for parents that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint

- develop organisational systems and documentation to support working practice.

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