

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300131
Inspection date	04 February 2008
Inspector	Susan Kathleen Wormald
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 outstanding. 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 1990. She lives in Sheffield with her husband and two adult daughters close to local schools, shops and parks. The whole of the ground floor and the first floor bathroom are used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children and is currently caring for 10 children on a part-time basis. She takes and collects children from Lydgate Infant and Junior Schools.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are developing a thorough understanding of their personal care. They receive excellent support and guidance to help them learn how to keep themselves healthy. Children are developing a very good understanding of good practice as the childminder promotes exemplary health and hygiene routines. For example, they have individual facecloths with their own names

printed on them and help her clean the table before lunch. Children thrive as they enjoy an extensive range of physical activities and have regular opportunities for fresh air and exercise. They are developing an excellent understanding of healthy living. They enjoy regular well planned outdoor physical activities. This ensures that children make good progress in their physical development and helps them develop confidence to enjoy moving with control. The interesting range of resources for outdoor play encourages children to enjoy being outside and using the garden. There are numerous opportunities to enjoy robust physical exercise and they are offered a wealth of interesting outdoor trips and activities. For example, they walk to local parks where they use swings and slides and make good use of the park ranger service. They enjoy trips on the bus to the botanical gardens and visit the winter gardens in the city centre. Their understanding and interest in the environment is stimulated as they make bird boxes and watch the birds feeding in the garden. They learn about recycling and the impact of their carbon footprint. Young children develop confidence and very good manipulative skills using a variety of tools, such as knives and cutters as they have regular opportunities to practise.

Children's understanding of healthy eating is positively encouraged through well planned activities with which they are actively involved. They choose nourishing meals from a selection of cookery books, shop for the ingredients then prepare and cook the meals themselves. All children are helped and encouraged to make their own choices through some innovative measures on the part of the childminder. They are learning to enjoy food and understand why some foods are healthy and others are not. Pictures and posters promote fresh fruit and vegetables. Mealtimes are thoughtfully planned, enjoyable, social occasions, where the childminder involves children in helping to prepare the food and children of all ages sit and talk together. Children's individual dietary needs are well met as the childminder fully consults with parents about both these and their children's care.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure and comfortable home where all potential risks have been effectively identified and minimised. The childminder has a high level of awareness of safety issues and gives a priority to raising children's awareness of safe practice. She has a comprehensive risk assessment in place which covers both indoors and outside and also trips and outings. The thoughtful organisation of space and creation of a child-friendly environment enables children to explore and take risks while being appropriately supervised. They are able to move around freely and independently while being protected from harm. Very young children are developing a clear understanding of danger and how to keep themselves safe. For example, they know how to negotiate steps safely and do this without being reminded and all children regularly practise evacuating the house in an emergency.

Children have the use of an extensive range of good quality resources and equipment that are appropriate for their age and stage of development and which support a wide variety of experiences. They know where to find them and can reach them easily and safely and so are able to access these independently, helping them to make choices about their play. The childminder carefully considers the differing needs and interests of children when deciding on additional resources; such as providing a chunky calculator and a visual aid to understanding fractions to strengthen children's grasp of mathematics.

Children are very well protected by the childminder who has a clear understanding of current child protection guidance and a high regard for children's welfare. She fully understands her

responsibilities for safeguarding children and has an up to date knowledge and awareness of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children have a thoroughly enjoyable and happy time because the childminder consistently puts children first and uses her secure knowledge of child development to plan the day around their needs. Children become absorbed in a wide range of purposeful activities, which capture their imagination, stimulate their interest and help them progress. Young children are completely engrossed playing with play dough, concentrating for long periods as they roll, cut and pummel. Older children make treasure maps, using tea to simulate parchment and using reference books to extend their knowledge. Children play a dynamic part in all that happens as they play a lead role in planning and organising activities and trips and are consulted and involved wherever possible. Very young children are confidently able to make their needs known as the childminder is very skilled in interpreting their non-verbal signals. Children are stimulated and motivated because of the exceptional planning and preparation of activities, which takes into account children's particular needs and interests and early years guidance. Their imagination is captured as they and the childminder marvel at the colours created by looking through a red box at the light. Children benefit from a wide range of pleasurable and interesting experiences outside the setting, such as visits to local art exhibitions and museums and trips further afield to Peveril Castle.

Children are relaxed and settled. They are comfortable and at ease in the environment as the childminder recognises that they benefit from a predictable, calm environment with regular routines and familiar resources. Good, warm and caring relationships between the childminder and the children are evident and contribute to their sense of security and belonging. Relationships flourish because the childminder plans many shared experiences where children learn from each other, such as shared mealtimes and outings. Children learn to be independent because they know they have someone they can depend on. They receive lots of warm and positive attention from the childminder who makes herself constantly available to listen to them and join in their activities. Her attention, support and ongoing encouragement very successfully promotes their self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children have a strong sense of belonging and are completely at ease in the welcoming setting. They are consulted about daily activities and routines, have their own place to hang their coats and see their pictures and photos displayed around the rooms. Individual needs are met exceedingly well as the childminder takes time to get to know children and is sensitive to these. She works in close partnership with their parents so that all children are fully included in the setting. She finds out what is important to them and uses this information to increase their confidence and sense of well-being. For example, she learns familiar words in the children's home language and they see a range of posters and written material that reflects this. They learn about cultural differences and lifestyles as they engage in meaningful activities that reflect the wider world. They learn to appreciate different backgrounds as they engage in fun activities, such as making their own placemat to represent things they had learnt about the Chinese New Year. Children learn to feel good about themselves as their achievements are acknowledged, they are given praise and attention and are clearly valued.

All children are able to participate fully in the setting because activities and routines are thoughtfully adapted to meet their needs. The childminder is strongly committed to inclusion and enthusiastic about undertaking relevant training to support children. Children are learning to be helpful, well mannered and co-operative. They respond well to the childminder's clear and consistent boundaries and her calm and positive approach. Children are busy and contented and this is reflected in their behaviour. They are learning to care for one another and to show consideration for others.

The childminder works in close association with parents and they clearly recognise and value the quality of care and service she provides. This contributes to children's well-being and helps ensure they are settled and secure. Parents receive an abundance of information about the childminder's practice and she keeps them very well informed about how children spend their day and the progress and achievements that they make. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved and to share in their children's experiences. The childminder values their contribution and sensitively acknowledges their role.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care and well-being is significantly enhanced by the childminder's professional organisation. Children benefit from the creation of a well planned, stimulating, challenging and inspiring environment. They are secure and well cared for because the childminder organises her home and time effectively to promote their play and care. This ensures she has time to meet children's demands and is able to give them individual attention. Indoor and outdoor space is organised imaginatively to provide a range of enjoyable and purposeful activities where children can relax and play and which helps them progress and develop. The childminder makes very good use of local facilities and children are regularly taken on trips to the local park and more adventurous journeys are arranged using buses.

A comprehensive collection of well documented policies and procedures provide high quality information for parents and support the childminder's practice. All required records which contribute to children's health, safety and welfare are in place, are maintained clearly and accurately and are easily accessible. The childminder demonstrates commitment towards her own personal development and improving her knowledge by attending a variety of relevant training. She keeps herself well informed and up to date, is constantly evaluating her practice and is very clear that this can always be improved. She provides high quality childcare because she has an excellent understanding of child development and is particularly skilled in supporting children with additional needs. 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 continue to improve resources that promote equality of opportunity. Children have access to a broad range of resources, play opportunities and activities, which reflect diversity and acknowledge cultural differences. This includes a wide selection of books and role play materials.

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 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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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