

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY259941
Inspection date	06 December 2007
Inspector	Helen Blackburn
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 was registered in 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged 16 years and 12 years. They live in the Middlestown area of Wakefield and there are schools, shops, parks and access to public transport in the local area. The whole ground floor, except for the living room and first floor bathroom and toilet of the childminder's house is used for childminding. The family has a tortoise.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding five children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder uses transport to take and collect children from local schools.

She attends the local carer and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The environment for children is clean. The childminder maintains this through regular cleaning routines, which minimises the risk of infection to children. Through practical activities, the childminder helps the children learn about personal hygiene. The children know to wash their hands at appropriate times and by talking about germs, they are learning about why hand washing is so important.

The children have the opportunity to be active and to exercise through outings to local parks, visits to toddler group, play gyms and walks. These activities support the children in leading a healthy lifestyle. The children play on slides, ride bikes, kick balls and climb on small equipment to support their physical development. In addition, at home, the children enjoy being active as they dance and move around on the dance mat.

The children's health and well-being needs are recognised and met appropriately. Children sleep and rest in line with their own routines, which promotes continuity of care for them. The childminder considers ways she can minimise the risk of cross-infection for children. This includes, children remaining at home if they have infectious illnesses. Appropriate systems are in place if children need to take medicines, for example, the childminder records sufficient information to promote children's health and well-being.

The childminder satisfactorily promotes healthy eating and provides the children with meals and snacks to meet their needs. The children enjoy fruit for snack and talk about bananas being their favourite. The childminder respects any specific dietary requirements and children's individual needs, for example, she ensures younger children feed in line with their own routines.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment that is clean, safe and maintained well. There are a number of adequate safety precautions in place, which contribute to children playing safely. For example, the childminder supervises the children, ensures all dangerous items are inaccessible to them and uses covers to protect electrical sockets. The children are learning about how to keep themselves safe. For example, they practise road safety on outings and the childminder talks to them about staying in sight when playing at the park.

Children access a varied range of resources that are safe and maintained in appropriate condition. The resources are stored in boxes and this enables the children to access them freely and without hazard. This helps children to become independent as they make their own choices in play.

The childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues; therefore, she appropriately protects children from harm. This is supported through her accessing recent training on safeguarding children, although she does not have access to the up to date written procedures or contact numbers regarding the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Overall, she understands the importance of protecting children and is aware of her responsibilities. For example, she knows what to do if she is concerned about a child, such as reporting and monitoring concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are happy and settled in a welcoming environment. The childminder is friendly and this contributes to creating a relaxing atmosphere for children. Through established routines and knowing the children well, the childminder meets their needs and provides continuity for children. For example, children sleep according to their individual routines.

Children enjoy accessing the varied range of age appropriate resources. They move freely from activity to activity, making their own choices in play, which supports them in becoming independent. They are interested and involved in what they do and enjoy their time at the setting. For example, the children enthusiastically talk about making towers with the building bricks and use their imagination well as they take their baby doll on holiday. The childminder enhances children's experiences by taking them to toddler group, on visits to local parks, play gyms and places of interest.

Children's relationships with the childminder are good. They enjoy her involvement in play and respond well to her. For example, they approach her for stories, comfort and reassurance. The childminder supports children's development well, for instance, she encourages children to name shapes and colours as they play with the magnetic shapes. Her good understanding of child development enables her to provide age appropriate play and activities for children. She provides play experiences taking the lead from the children, meeting their specific requests or by following their interests and choices.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The children behave appropriately for their ages and stages of development. Through sharing and taking turns, they are developing an understanding of respect and the needs of others. The childminder handles minor disagreements appropriately, for instance, she explains to children why certain behaviour is unacceptable. Through praising the children, they behave in a positive way. These strategies help children to understand about right and wrong.

The children are beginning to develop an awareness of the wider society. They access some resources that provide positive images of others, for example, books. These resources continue to be extended to provide more experiences for children so that they learn about all aspects of diversity. The children are settled in their environment and through praise; the childminder raises their self-esteem and positive self-image.

The childminder and parents work sufficiently well together to ensure they meet children's needs. They share and exchange information through discussion and some written information, which promotes continuity of care for children. The childminder has devised a parents' file, which includes some information that outlines the service provided for children. Within this file, there are some written policies that the childminder has adopted from other local childcare providers; although she works within these policies, they are not individual to her own service.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The organisation and utilisation of space within the home meets children's needs and promotes their welfare. For example, children play safely and the childminder provides appropriate areas

for children to rest and sleep. The organisation of resources enables children to make their own choices in play, which promotes their independence. The childminder builds into the day children's individual routines and needs, which contributes to continuity for children.

Most documentation is in place to contribute to the safe management of the setting. However, the logging of a previous complaint is lacking. This is a breach in regulations. However, this breach does not compromise the children's well-being as the childminder openly discusses any concerns with her parents. Documents are stored confidentially and are easily accessible to ensure she care for children appropriately.

The childminder understands the benefits of training. She uses any information she gains on training courses to improve outcomes for children. For example, she has recently attended child protection training to increase her knowledge in safeguarding children. 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 provider agreed to attend first aid training and improve resources that positively promote diversity. The childminder currently holds an up to date first aid certificate, which ensures she can act appropriately in an emergency. She has purchased some resources that promote positive images of others, such as books and jigsaws. These continue to be extended to ensure children understand about all aspects of diversity and the world in which they live.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there has been one complaint made to Ofsted relating to National Standard 1: Suitability, National Standard 3: Care, Learning and Play and National Standard 6: Safety. A childcare inspector visited the provision on 27 July 2006 and actions were raised. The actions were satisfactorily met by the registered provider and therefore 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 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):

- obtain up to date information regarding the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures, including contact numbers

- ensure any policies used reflect the individual service provided
- devise a system for logging any complaints and ensure all complaints are recorded.

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