

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY262876
Inspection date	21 August 2007
Inspector	Ingrid Pine
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 has been registered since 2003. She minds along with her father, mother and sister who are also registered childminders and is mainly responsible for children who attend sessions before and after school and during school holidays. There are seven children on roll including four over the age of eight years. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The childminder lives in a semi detached house in Eastmoor near Wakefield, close to the town centre, with her family. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes and there is a garden to the rear suitable for outdoor play. Nearby there are shops, parks, childcare groups and schools. The childminder delivers and collects children from the local primary schools.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about the importance of health and hygiene routines. There are good procedures in place that encourage them to independently look after their own personal needs. For example, children independently access the toilet area where they use separate hand towels and liquid soap. They understand the reasons for washing their hands after using the toilet and before eating meals. Children's good health is promoted because the childminder ensures the risk of cross infection is minimised. She has a written sickness policy which is shared with parents and carers. This ensures that they know why children should be kept at home when they are ill. The premises and resources are kept clean and well maintained ensuring the risk to children of cross contamination is kept to a minimum.

Children learn about healthy eating as they are provided with a varied diet which considers their own preferences. Children identify different fruits and vegetables that they like to achieve 'five a day' and they often help to prepare meals and snacks. They know that eating grapes is good for them and happily discuss this with the inspector.

Children have good opportunities that encourage their physical development. The childminder works closely with the local school to extend children's individual healthy eating and physical activity programmes. For example, she organises outings to local amenities such as the local park where there is room to take part in vigorous exercises such as running and playing football and cricket. Consequently, children learn the importance of keeping fit in a fun and enjoyable manner.

The childminder mostly cares for children before and after school and during the school holidays. She is also aware of the needs of very young children as she has completed the 'Birth to three matters framework' training.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very safe and secure family environment. The outdoor area is securely fenced and gated. Notices direct visitors to the back entrance where they have to use a bell. Visitors are only admitted after their identification is checked.

Children have access to a good range of well maintained toys and resources. They are stored safely and children can freely and independently access them.

Good procedures are in place to ensure that appropriate people collect children and there are good systems in place for collecting younger children from local schools. The childminder attends the primary school with parents to ensure staff are familiar with these recognised collection procedures. This year older children are starting at the local high school. However, current procedures for their independent return from school do not take account of the impact on younger children. For example it has not been identified how care will be maintained for younger children if an older child does not return from school within the designated time.

The childminder is familiar with local procedures in relation to child protection. She clearly understands her role in protecting children and maintains her knowledge and understanding through regularly updating her training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a supportive family setting. The childminder plans a range of interesting activities that are relevant to the childminded children's age and stage of development. She mainly cares for older children before and after school and during the school holidays and she uses publications and the internet well to search out resources and activities that allow children to learn through purposeful play but which are, at the same time, fun and enjoyable. Children visit special places and have plenty of outdoor experiences. They very much enjoy spending a relaxing time during the summer break and are keen to share their experiences as they show photographs of themselves attending the National Play Day held in the local city.

Children play happily together and are supported well by the childminder. They are encouraged to independently choose their own activities and use their imaginative and creative skills well whilst constructing origami crafts and models with paper and coloured plastic beads.

Detailed records of children's activities are well documented in daily diaries and profiles. These are readily available to share with children and adults.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are made welcome and cared for in a loving, family environment. Behaviour is managed very well and children are polite and well mannered.

The childminder has a written equal opportunities policy and actively promotes respect for all. The setting has an inclusive ethos and children from a variety of ethnic and social backgrounds are welcomed and supported within provision. For example, she learns key words that help them communicate and settle in. The childminder works with parents of children with learning difficulties or disabilities to ensure their individual needs are met and they are well supported.

There is a strong partnership with parents and carers. They are well supported and consulted regarding any specific needs. Information regarding their children is shared with them on a regular basis. For example, daily diaries set out general information and parents and carers are invited to contribute their comments. Profiles for younger children are being developed and this enables parents and carers to share in the assessments of their own children's skills and achievements.

The setting has a comprehensive parent pack. This ensures that parents and carers are kept well informed of all policies and procedures involved in the care and welfare of their children. Parents and carers feel they are well supported and are happy with the care and education their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a childminder who has good experience and is dedicated to improving her skills and knowledge through a programme of continued training.

The childminder works with her family who are all registered to care for children. She is mainly responsible for the care of older children before and after school and during school holidays.

All members of the family are familiar with the children and this maintains a homely family environment where children feel happy and secure.

The home is organised to ensure that all children have room to play constructively both indoors and in the outside area. Resources and equipment are readily available for all children to access independently.

A comprehensive range of documentation is in place. This is organised effectively and available at all times.

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 was asked to improve aspects of documentation.

The childminder has ensured the safety of children by improving the content of her documentation to include written evidence of Criminal Records Bureau clearance, accident entries and her complaints and collection of children procedures.

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 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 care provided for children aged 8-14 does not adversely affect the care provided for children under 8 years.

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