

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 302620 |
| Inspection date | 25 July 2007 |
| Inspector | Carolyn Gifford |

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| 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 1986. She lives at Ardsley in Barnsley. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear yard for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding four children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder also cares for children over the age of eight years.

The childminder walks to local schools and pre-school groups to take and collect children. She also attends the local toddler group and takes children to the local park.

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's health is effectively promoted as the childminder takes positive steps to help children learn about the importance of personal hygiene and to enjoy healthy lifestyles. For example, she talks to children about daily aspects of their personal care, such as hand washing at appropriate times.

The childminder talks to parents, when their children first start, about when children cannot attend due to illness and infection. However, this is not followed up with any written information, which means that parents do not have any documentation to refer to at a later date. Most of the relevant written parental consents are in evidence. However, the childminder does not have consent from parents to administer first aid or to apply sun cream, which compromises children's general welfare.

The childminder ensures that children have regular access to outdoor play, which helps them to develop their physical skills and effectively contributes to children gaining confidence and control of their bodies. Children enthusiastically talk about visits to a local play area, where they can run, jump, climb and balance.

Children enjoy and learn about healthy eating because the childminder works closely with parents regarding the arrangements and provision of children's meals, snacks and drinks. She is sensitive to the needs of individual children and takes into account their personal likes and dislikes, which effectively promotes children's general health and welfare.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm and welcoming home where the childminder identifies and minimises most potential risks. She is vigilant regarding safety and takes reasonable steps to ensure the environment is safe for young children. However, sharp knives and scissors are stored in a low-level drawer in the kitchen, which is accessible to children and, therefore, compromises their safety. The childminder has assessed this as low risk as children are not allowed in the kitchen, except to access the rear yard, but does accept the potential risk to children.

The childminder encourages children to learn to keep themselves safe both indoors and out. For example, when on outings she discusses road safety procedures and children show some understanding of safety issues as they readily describe how they cross roads safely.

Effective use of available space ensures that children are comfortable and have room to move around freely and safely, therefore, able to develop independence skills. Resources and equipment are stored in the dining room and are easily accessible to children, which means they can make choices about their play. The childminder reviews resources regularly to ensure they remain safe and suitable for the ages and abilities of the children attending.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has secure knowledge of child protection and knows where to seek advice and support in the event of having concerns about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content in the childminder's home and interact confidently with the childminder and with each other. The childminder places strong emphasis on communication and language as she talks to children about what they are doing and uses appropriate questioning techniques that encourage children to think and develop their knowledge and understanding. For example, when children are planning a shopping trip, the childminder encourages them to think about what they might need and how they will get there. Children respond enthusiastically by making a shopping list, which encourages their mark-making skills. The childminder offers frequent praise and encouragement, which shows children that their attempts and achievements are valued.

The childminder communicates daily with parents about their child's day, which helps to ensure that children's play and care needs are met effectively. Children are familiar with the daily routines and eagerly participate in a varied range of activities, which allow for active play, relaxation and rest. Children have regular opportunity to develop their social skills as they enjoy outings to local places of interest, where they can meet with other children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern and their individual needs are met well as the childminder works effectively with parents to ensure daily routines are followed successfully. Children show a strong sense of belonging as they are familiar with the environment and the routines. They develop positive relationships with the childminder and each other, which helps children to feel safe and secure, thus able to develop confidence and a healthy self-esteem.

Children have a good awareness of the local community as they enjoy regular outings and visits to local play areas and places of interest. They have equal access to all resources and are learning about the wider world through the use of toys and books that promote positive images in all areas of equal opportunity. Although the childminder does not have any experience of caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities, she has a good understanding of the areas to consider to ensure she meets the needs of all children attending.

A clear and consistent approach to managing children's behaviour effectively encourages children to behave well. They learn right from wrong in a caring environment and are given appropriate support and guidance. For example, when the childminder encourages children to share resources, effective techniques are used, such as explaining and offering alternatives. This helps children to learn and know what is expected of them and to consider the effects of their behaviour on others.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and at ease in the well organised environment, which helps them to develop confidence to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The childminder organises space and resources to meet children's needs successfully. Flexible planning allows children to make choices and organise their own time with the childminder supporting and guiding them.

The childminder continues to extend her knowledge and understanding of childcare by accessing relevant training courses, which is evident in her approach to her work and in the children's responses to her. The childminder keeps parents well informed, which contributes to them feeling involved and valued. Effective recording systems ensure that children's individual needs are met and most of the relevant policies and procedures are in place.

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 it was recommended that the childminder ensure there is sufficient storage to allow children easy access to resources. There are now a number of cupboards in the dining room, which are used for the storage of resources, giving children easy access. This contributes to developing children's independence skills as they can freely choose the toys they want to play with.

It was also recommended that the childminder review her procedures for keeping a written record of accidents involving minded children. There is now a system in place to record accidents that happen to children and all relevant detail and information is recorded, which contributes to children's general welfare.

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):

- request written parental consent to administer first aid to children
- devise and implement a policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious
- ensure that sharp knives and scissors are inaccessible to children.

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