

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	302688
Inspection date	26 July 2007
Inspector	Carolyn Gifford

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 1999. She lives with her family at Darton in Barnsley. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a secure, enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding two children. The childminder also cares for children over the age of eight years.

The childminder takes children to local schools, and takes children to the library and 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 satisfactory.

The childminder helps children to stay healthy as she has a clear understanding of the importance of good hygiene practices. Children learn about hygiene through everyday routines and they know why they need to wash their hands after going to the toilet and before eating. Children's rest and sleep routines are flexible to meet individual needs. The childminder talks daily with parents to ensure she is aware of their wishes and each child's home routines and experiences.

There are appropriate procedures in place to ensure that sick children are comforted and that the risk of cross infection to other children is minimal. The childminder promptly recognises signs and symptoms of illness and parents are informed. However, the childminder does not request written parental consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Although the childminder does discuss the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious with parents, when their children first start, she does not have a written policy for parents to refer to. Whilst most of the relevant detail and information is included in the medication record book, the childminder does not include the reason for the medication or the time of the last dose. These areas compromise children's health and welfare.

Children have the opportunity to participate in a good range of physical activities and enjoy outings in the fresh air, which contributes to keeping them fit and healthy. The childminder plans suitable activities to develop children's abilities and supervises them well, while encouraging independence and confidence to try out new skills.

The childminder provides healthy and nutritious snacks and meals for children, which helps them to learn to make healthy food choices. She respects the wishes of parents and uses documentation well to ensure that she meets children's dietary needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and very child friendly home. The childminder organises space and resources well, which effectively reduces potential hazards and promotes independence. Children use a broad range of good quality toys and equipment that meet safety standards, helping them to enjoy a variety of experiences safely. Children learn to tidy up, which encourages them to take responsibility for themselves and the safety of others.

The childminder is vigilant regarding the safety of children and completes a visual risk assessment on a daily basis before children arrive. She helps children to learn to keep themselves safe as, for example, she encourages them to think about road safety when on outings.

The childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibilities within child protection procedures and knows where to seek advice or support, which effectively safeguards and protects children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are secure and settled in the childminder's care. They use resources and equipment very well, which encourages them to spend their time purposefully and to learn through play. Children develop confidence as the childminder talks to them and shows interest in what they are doing. She observes children's play carefully and plans activities based on their interests.

There are good opportunities for children to explore their immediate environment, which builds on their natural curiosity as learners. The childminder considers individual children's ages and abilities when planning the childminding day. This ensures that activities are suitable and challenging, helping children to make progress in all areas of their development.

The childminder encourages children to think for themselves and uses opportunities during play to introduce concepts such as shape, colour and number. For example, when making cards, the childminder uses appropriate questioning techniques to encourage children to describe shapes and understand number.

Although the childminder does not currently care for any children under the age of three years, she has attended training in this area and has a good knowledge base of the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children show a strong sense of belonging as they are warmly welcomed and at ease in the familiar environment of the childminder's home. The childminder treats children with equal concern and encourages them to be aware of others and to value similarities and differences.

A clear and consistent approach to managing children's behaviour helps children to learn right from wrong in a caring environment. The childminder gives clear explanations to children why certain behaviours are not acceptable, which helps them to begin to understand the effect of negative behaviour on others.

Children develop confidence as they play with each other and enjoy regular outings in the local community. Children make their own decisions as they decide what they want to do next and help to put toys away when they have finished playing with them. Children receive lots of warm praise and encouragement as they play.

The childminder shows a good awareness of the importance of developing close working relationships with parents. Clear written agreements are reached with parents about their child's care and the childminder encourages parents to share any concerns. The childminder makes sure there is time to share the day's events with parents when they collect their children.

Although the childminder has not had experience of caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities, she has sufficient understanding of the areas she would need to consider to ensure she meets the needs of all children attending.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is effective in organising the childminding to support children's learning and play. Children are able to make informed choices about their play and are able to confidently express their needs. The childminder promotes children's well-being as there are procedures in place for sharing information on a daily basis with parents.

Most of the required documentation and written parental consents are in place and the childminder has a positive attitude regarding where improvements can be made to enhance the childcare service. The childminder keeps documentation in an organised manner and confidentiality is maintained 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 it was recommended that the childminder request written parental consent to transport children in the family car. The childminder does now have this consent from parents, which contributes to children's general welfare. It was also recommended that the childminder obtain written consent from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. There is now evidence to show that some parents have given consent, which contributes to their general health. However, written parental consent from all parents is still not in evidence.

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 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):

- ensure that all relevant detail and information is included in the medication record book
- request written parental consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- devise and implement a policy for the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious.

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