

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY266993
Inspection date	17 August 2007
Inspector	Tracey Jane Outram
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 2003. She lives in Sheffield with her husband and their children aged 16, 14 and eight years. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding, and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The area has good transport links and there is access to shops, children's play areas and parks. Schools and pre-school facilities for younger children are situated in the locality. The childminder takes children to and from local schools and pre-school groups as required. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. The childminder is currently caring for one child aged under five years who attends on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children's good health and well-being are successfully addressed. Robust systems are in place to minimise incidents of cross-contamination; for instance, toys and resources are cleaned frequently and the food preparation areas are sanitised at frequent intervals throughout the

day. The children learn about personal care and they wash their hands at frequent intervals. The childminder is very knowledgeable regarding the steps to take when children become ill or are involved in minor bumps and falls. She holds a valid first aid certificate and takes positive steps to deal with children's personal health requirements. For instance, she has excellent procedures in place to ensure that any necessary medication is safely administered to children in line with parental instructions and regulations.

The childminder has a very good knowledge and understanding of healthy eating. The children enjoy nutritious and healthy snacks that are prepared by the childminder to suit their individual routines and the wishes of their parents.

The children benefit from a wide range of physical play opportunities. They thoroughly enjoy using the secure outside play area where they increase their strength and stamina by using a challenging range of equipment designed to encourage the children to peddle, push and climb. Similarly, the children benefit from activities, such as manipulating play dough, sorting shapes and fixing together the pieces of interlocking puzzles, all of which are provided to increase their fine motor coordination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are carefully monitored and supervised at all times. The home is secure and the childminder has a very good awareness of children's developing abilities; consequently, she implements safety procedures that take into account children's ages and levels of understanding. The childminder is very aware of potential dangers in the home and garden; she has removed all hazardous items from the reach of children and she has taken positive steps to ensure that children's access the greenhouse is restricted. She completes frequent risk assessments and she has made effective plans to deal with fire safety and the emergency evacuation of the building.

The children are cared for in a welcoming and child-friendly environment. They enjoy using a wide and interesting range of clean and age-appropriate equipment. The childminder carefully selects toys that are suitable, interesting and challenging. Toys are in good condition and conform to the required safety standards.

The children are safeguarded because the childminder understands what she must do if she has any worries about children in her care. She has a good understanding of the signs and indicators of child abuse and neglect and she has access to good range of written information, which supports her to report any concerns quickly to the appropriate investigating agency. The childminder is committed to attending child protection training and she informs parents of her child protection procedures at the start of a placement.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder uses her experience and her knowledge of child development to plan an interesting and purposeful range of activities. The children benefit from a broad selection of home-based play opportunities and some outings. They enjoy a range of creative and imaginative play opportunities, such as painting, sticking, modelling and using a selection of small world toys. In addition, during outdoor play the children thoroughly enjoy learning about the

environment and living things. They observe insects, grow sunflowers and assist the childminder to harvest the home-grown tomatoes.

The childminder successfully implements the 'Birth to three matters' framework. She monitors the children's development by making observations and keeping a photographic record of the children's achievements, which are shared with their parents.

The children thoroughly enjoy the warm and affectionate relationships they have with the childminder. They thrive because the childminder values their contributions and listens with interest to what they have to say. The children remain stimulated because the childminder prepares an interesting range of activities that are intended to extend children's understanding of colour, shapes and numbers. The children have good levels of concentration and they enjoy matching games and completing large alphabet floor puzzles, which successfully increase their language, literacy and ability to solve problems.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder strives to develop trusting and professional relationships with the children's parents. Settling-in routines are agreed at the start of a placement and parents are made aware that children are only allowed to leave the premises with authorised adults. Parents are provided with access to a very good range of clearly written information about the childminding service. For instance, a detailed portfolio containing a number of relevant policies and procedures, insurance details and previous inspection reports is made accessible.

The childminder ensures that children's records are maintained effectively and she takes care to ensure that she is fully aware of the children's individual needs and personal care routines. The children have access to a broad range of equipment and play resources that are not gender-biased. However, there are few toys and planned activities that show positive images of disability and religious, racial and cultural diversity.

The children's behaviour is very good. They benefit from consistent boundaries and high levels of adult attention, which increases their sense of security and well-being. The childminder is a positive role model and she effectively manages a range of different behaviours. The children learn what is expected of them and enjoy high levels of praise for their positive achievements.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children's care, welfare and play are given high priority because the childminder ensures that she maintains up-to-date knowledge and understanding of the National Standards and the supporting guidance. She frequently reviews and evaluates her practice in order to improve outcomes for the children. In addition, she has a very strong commitment to further training; she is currently studying for a recognised childcare qualification.

The childminder organises the premises and the daily routine very effectively and, as a result, the children are happy, confident and secure. All of the documentation required to meet regulations, such as registers of attendance, medication records and details of all accidents occurring on the premises are meticulously organised and completed in a professional manner. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has increased her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. As a result, the children's safety has improved.

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):

- take steps to increase children's awareness of different backgrounds and lifestyles.

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