

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY269609
Inspection date	03 September 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 2004. She lives with her family at Darfield in Barnsley.

The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years old at any one time and is currently minding a total of seven children. The childminder is also caring for one child over the age of eight years.

The childminder walks to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children and she attends a carer and toddler group on a regular basis.

The family has two large dogs.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a varied range of activities and outings in the fresh air, which contributes to keeping them fit and well. They have the opportunity to experience large physical play activities most days, as they use a range of play equipment at local parks and play areas. The childminder supervises children very well and plans suitable activities to encourage them to develop independence and the confidence to try out new skills. Her clear understanding of the needs of young children supports their good developmental progress.

There are systems in place to record medication and most of the relevant written consents from parents are in evidence. However, the childminder does not have written parental consent to administer first aid, seek emergency medical advice or treatment, or for children to have contact with the two dogs, which compromises children's welfare.

The childminder helps children to stay healthy as she has a clear understanding of the importance of good hygiene practices. Children learn about personal hygiene through everyday routines and know they have to wash their hands at appropriate times and after certain activities.

Children's dietary needs are met well as the childminder works with parents to establish likes and dislikes and respects their wishes. She provides healthy and nutritious food, which encourages children to make healthy food choices, which effectively contributes to children's good health and well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is given high priority by the childminder and is an integral part of the care she provides. Children learn to keep themselves safe by observing boundaries and limits, such as holding hands when on outings and not accessing the kitchen unless supervised. All safety precautions are in place and the childminder completes a visual risk assessment each day before children arrive, which contributes to children's general welfare and safety.

Children play with quality resources and equipment that are of good design and condition, which the childminder checks regularly for safety and removes and replaces as necessary. Children are able to access toys independently, which helps them to enjoy a wide variety of experiences and to make choices about their play.

The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of her responsibilities with regard to child protection. She knows the signs and symptoms to look out for and the procedure to follow if she has concerns about a child, which contributes to protecting and safeguarding children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care and use equipment and resources well, which encourages them to spend their time purposefully and to learn through play. Children enjoy many interesting activities and are able to choose quiet or active play according to their

mood. There is easy access to toys, which means that children can make independent choices, which encourages them to use initiative in planning their play.

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 activities, which ensures they are suitably challenging and helps children to make progress in all areas of their development.

Although the childminder is not currently caring for any children under the age of three years, she is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and has a good knowledge of the needs of babies and young children. The childminder nurtures communication skills in young children as she responds to what children say and do with smiles and encouragement.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children show good levels of independence, curiosity and imagination, which the childminder actively encourages by ensuring that appropriate resources are readily accessible. Children are able to progress because the childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and equipment, which increases their awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. The childminder offers an inclusive service for all children and shows a good understanding of the areas she would need to consider to care for children with learning difficulties or disabilities.

Good communication and welcoming routines show there are positive relationships between the childminder and parents. The childminder respects children as individuals as she discusses their needs with their parents, including daily routines, likes and dislikes. This contributes to meeting children's needs and ensures that parents are actively involved. The childminder makes sure there is time to share the day's events with parents when children are collected.

Behaviour is generally good and the childminder employs appropriate strategies for managing challenging behaviour. She offers frequent praise and encouragement, which reassures children and promotes their confidence and self-esteem.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder maintains most of the required documentation to ensure that her childcare service runs smoothly and that arrangements with parents are clear. She develops good relationships with parents and has some policies and procedures, which she readily shares with parents. However, the childminder has not complied with the requirement to maintain an up to date first aid certificate, which compromises children's welfare and the childminder's ability to manage minor emergencies and injuries.

Space and resources are organised to meet individual children's needs and flexible planning allows children to make choices and organise their own play, with the childminder supporting them to extend their play and learning.

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 that children have access to an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. There are now sufficient resources that promote positive images in all areas of equal opportunities, which contributes to helping children learn about diversity and the wider world.

It was also recommended that the childminder review her child protection policy to include procedures if allegations are made against her or others. The childminder shows a good understanding of the procedure to follow in the event of allegations being made against her, which promotes 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 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):

- request written parental consent for children to have contact with the dogs
- complete a first aid course, which includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- request written parental consent to administer first aid and to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

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