

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 313274
Inspection date 15 January 2008
Inspector Rosemary Beyer

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 1990. She lives with her family, in a mid-terraced house in the west of Kingston Upon Hull. The city centre is approximately four miles away. The area is served by a regular bus service. There are local shops within walking distance as well as a park, nursery and primary school and a playgroup.

Children have the use of the downstairs of the home which includes the dining room and kitchen/diner. The bathroom is situated on the first floor and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outdoor play. Care is currently provided to 12 children who attend a variety of sessions both full and part time.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Hull and District Childminding Association. She holds a City and Guilds Certificate in Caring for Children aged birth to seven years and regularly attends the local play sessions and music mornings for carers and toddlers.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for on clean and well maintained premises, where good hygiene practice is effectively implemented to prevent the spread of infection. Children learn to protect themselves by good hand washing procedures before food and after personal care, or by the use of antibacterial wipes depending on their age and understanding.

Parents acknowledge the written sick child policy and agree to keep their children at home if they have infectious diseases. The exclusion times are readily available for information. The childminder has devised forms for short and long term medication. Parents give prior written permission for administering medication and acknowledge it afterwards. However, as the parents then take the completed forms home, the childminder does not have record of the short term medication administered.

The childminder has a current first aid certificate and a well stocked first aid box, which is regularly checked. The children use out of date bandages for role play activities. Any accidents are recorded and acknowledged by parents in writing.

Children are able to sleep or rest when they are tired. Younger children sleep in the their buggies and if the weather permits, sleep outside in the fresh air. Older children use the settee for a rest. The children walk to and from school, nursery, playgroup or shops. They use the garden or the local play areas for physical play. When the weather is dry they go for walks in the surrounding fields to see the horses.

Children's physical development is also supported by visits to activity centres for play sessions on the large equipment. The children are also able to use a wide range of tools and implements including glue sticks, mark making materials and scissors. They sort and thread very capably, concentrating well to complete their chosen tasks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The safety and security of the premises are a high priority. Children cannot leave the house unsupervised as the external doors are secured. The garden is surrounded with a high gate and high fences. Comprehensive risk assessments are completed for walks in the local community and outings, with written permission obtained from parents. Toys and resources are checked before children arrive and as they are used.

The children learn about the importance of leaving the house quickly in an emergency, and practise the fire drill regularly to ensure they are familiar with the procedure. The childminder displays the evacuation and emergency procedures for them and their parents to see. Fire equipment is in place and smoke alarms are checked weekly. Parents are also introduced to the childminder who would care for their children in an emergency.

Children access toys safely and easily from boxes, shelves or cupboards. They use resources with care, ensuring young children do not have access to small pieces of games on which they could choke.

Posters are displayed for the older children to see with information about keeping healthy and safe. These include information about drugs, alcohol, smoking and avoiding harm from strangers. The children are confident to discuss the problems which may arise and how to protect themselves.

The childminder has a comprehensive child protection policy and procedure in place which is well written. A copy is made available to parents so they are aware of her responsibilities to their children. She has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms which may cause her to make a referral. The booklets and contact details are readily available should the childminder have concerns. However, the procedure to follow in the event of allegations being made against her is not specific to her childminding setting.

The lost and uncollected child policies are well written and clear, including the contact details for Ofsted, as these are considered significant events. These are also given to parents, who give written authorisation for other persons to collect their children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children enjoy a wide range of activities and resources to support their development. The childminder has a very good understanding of the Foundation Stage and the 'Birth to three matters' framework which she uses to ensure the children are making good progress. She plans the activities monthly to ensure all the children have opportunity to try each different activity. During the run-up to Christmas the older children recorded the activities they had completed themselves to make sure they did not miss anything. They produced some very imaginative decorations and cards.

The setting is very well equipped with a wide range of resources available to meet the needs of all the children who attend, whatever their age and stage of development. They help themselves to the excellent selection of books and toys to support their interests, and make suggestions for the future programme.

Younger children are developing their vocabulary and confidence through conversation and questioning when enjoying stories with the childminder. Their understanding of numbers and mathematical ideas is supported during everyday activities, such as counting the stairs when going to the bathroom, counting the beakers at snack time or the number of dolls in the game they are playing. They use a wide range of table top games and role play on a regular basis. During their jeweller's shop activity, they described necklaces and pretended to sell them to each other.

The children are able to use an electric organ and enjoy singing simple songs. The childminder also plays to them so they can sing along. They have access to a variety of other musical instruments and use them to accompany themselves.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a well written equal opportunities policy, which is inclusive of all. Each child is treated as an individual and cared for according to their needs, in line with parents' wishes. The children learn about other cultures and customs through the activities they enjoy, including dressing up, food and craft work. They use a good selection of Chinese costumes

provided by a parent, and enjoy eating Chinese food with chopsticks while celebrating the Chinese New Year. They have also celebrated Hanukkah and Diwali.

During the last year the children have visited different religious buildings including a mosque, a synagogue and Christian churches, to learn about the various religions in Hull. This has raised their awareness, and the children know people have different beliefs but treat them with respect.

Children with learning difficulties and disabilities are welcome in the setting, and the childminder has undertaken training in the past to expand her knowledge when caring for children with different needs. She has worked closely with parents to ensure their needs can be met.

The childminder provides a very positive encouraging environment, with clear house rules, where the children behave very well. They are developing good manners, learning to share and cooperate when playing. She provides parents with a well written behaviour policy, and asks them to tell her if there are changes which may affect the child's behaviour. They are involved if she has any concerns about the children. The childminder is consistent in her expectations of behaviour but also realistic about the children's understanding, and uses different strategies depending on the children's age and development.

Relationships with parents and carers are very good. They have written very positive letters of appreciation about the childminder's care. They value the support given by the childminder and are very happy with the care she provides. They and their children feel like part of the family. All parents receive a copy of the policies and procedures and mission statement used to manage the setting, including the complaints procedure with the Ofsted contact details.

Parents receive verbal feedback each day about their child, and a photographic record is maintained of the children enjoying a wide range of activities. An individual file is kept with development notes and samples of work, which can be taken home at any time for parents to see.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has produced very well written policies and procedures which govern her practice and ensure her setting is managed safely and efficiently. She is continually reviewing and amending the paperwork to keep it up to date.

The information sheets and contracts, completed with parents, define the child's needs while in her care, enabling her to provide for each child on an individual basis. All records are stored securely, but available to parents on request, and confidentiality is respected in line with the policy.

The registration certificate is displayed at all times, and the conditions respected, including the numbers of children cared for. No unauthorised persons are allowed access to the children and everyone living on the premises has appropriate clearances. Ofsted is notified of any changes, such as the ages of the childminder's children. The complaints procedure is also on display and includes the Ofsted contact details.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder was asked at the last inspection to develop a system for obtaining prior written permission from parents for the administration of medication. She has devised two medication forms, one for single dosages and one for ongoing administration. Parents sign these before and after the children receive their medicine. However, the childminder does not keep a record of the single dosages she administers.

During the last inspection the isolation tap of the water cooler, which the children use independently, was hot and accessible. The childminder has turned the hot system off so it is no longer a hazard.

Before the last inspection parents did not have access to a complaints procedure containing Ofsted contact details. They are now provided with a written procedure and details of the address and telephone number of Ofsted. The notice is also displayed on the wall for them to see. A recording system is in place for any complaints, which is available to parents on request.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the 1 April 2004 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):

- keep a copy of the written permission for short term medication as provided by parents
- develop the procedure for allegations against the childminder to take account of the individual nature of the setting.

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