

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	313538
Inspection date	02 November 2007
Inspector	Ann Doubleday
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 1996. She lives in Meadowfield with her husband and two children aged 16 and 14 years. The ground floor of the home, except for the lounge, is used for childminding.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for two pre-school children, five children of school age and three children over eight years. The family have a dog. The childminder attends local parent and toddler groups with the children. She has completed level 1 Quality Counts, a quality assurance scheme.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a range physical activities that contribute to their good health. There are regular opportunities for them to be outdoors. They go to the park, go shopping or go for a walk to feed the deer. Children are able to rest or be active according to their individual needs.

Children's health is supported by the encouragement of appropriate personal care routines which also allow them to develop their independence. For example, they are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and are beginning to learn why they need to do so. The childminder has satisfactory procedures in place regarding sick children, administration of medication and accident recording.

Arrangements for meals and snacks are discussed with parents so that children's individual dietary needs are satisfactorily met. They are offered a variety of meals which cater for their individual preferences. However, snacks offered to children do not usually include a healthy option, as they usually consist of biscuits. Children have access to regular drinks throughout the day. This ensures they do not remain thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming home where some risks are identified and minimised. This means that they are able to move around independently. However, some low level electric sockets are not protected and household cleaning materials are accessible to children in the kitchen and pose a hazard. There are satisfactory arrangements in place to keep children safe in the event of a fire. Appropriate fire safety equipment is in place and the emergency evacuation is practised with the children periodically.

A good range of developmentally appropriate equipment and toys are provided to promote children's development and welfare. Toys are in a safe, well-maintained condition and are stored in the playroom on low shelves to encourage children to access them independently. They are rotated with other toys in the loft to give children variety.

Children are adequately protected because the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of her role in child protection. She has a sound awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse and is aware of the procedures to be followed should a concern arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children develop their self-esteem and confidence well because the childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of how to promote children's learning and development and provides a wide range of age appropriate activities and consistent caring support. They have regular opportunities for creative experiences, such as drawing and painting. Baking is also a feature of the setting. Children's mathematical development is promoted as they are encouraged to count objects as they play.

Children take part in an interesting range of outings and enjoy visits to the park, the local shops and go to feed the deer at Whitworth Hall. They attend the local toddler groups regularly. Children take part in planned activities and confidently initiate their own play ideas as they independently access play resources which are stored at child height. They enjoy games and are beginning to play cooperatively together, taking turns and sharing.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They develop confidence as the childminder talks to them and shows interest in what they are doing. Their communication skills are developing as the childminder talks and listens to them. They enjoy reading stories and completing jigsaws together.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed into the setting and participate in all activities because the childminder values and respects their individuality. Children learn about the local community as they take part in outings to local parks, shops and other places of local interest. However, there are limited activities and resources in place to increase children's awareness of the wider world.

The childminder uses satisfactory strategies for managing behaviour. Children are encouraged to share and to help with tidying up. They are given praise and encouragement for their achievements and are generally well behaved.

Children benefit from the positive partnership that the childminder has developed with their parents. Parent's views about their children's needs are sought and the childminder verbally shares information each day with parents so that children's needs are effectively met. The childminder has not specifically provided parents with Ofsted's address and telephone number. This means parents are not fully aware of how to complain to the regulator should they need to do so.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home and at ease with the childminder and in the environment. This means that they are confident to initiate their own play and learning. Adult to child ratios are satisfactorily maintained with good organisation of time to meet children's individual needs. The childminder has completed the mandatory childminder training and keeps her own knowledge up to date by attending some further training. The knowledge gained is used to develop the care that is given to the children.

There are effective systems in place for the sharing of information with parents about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. The legally required documentation is in place and stored confidentially. However, The childminder has not specifically provided parents with Ofsted's address and telephone number.

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 the provider agreed to obtain written consent from parents for seeking emergency treatment and to maintain a record of fire drills. Consent for seeking medical advice in an emergency has now been requested from parents and a record of fire drills is maintained. This means children's welfare is safeguarded.

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 complaint 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):

- develop the range of snacks offered to children in order to provide healthy choices
- make household cleaners inaccessible to children and make sure all low level electric sockets are protected
- provide parents with Ofsted's address and telephone number
- increase the range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti- discriminatory practice.

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