

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	321331
Inspection date	13 November 2007
Inspector	Linda Filewood
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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1998. She lives with her husband and two teenage children in Bishopthorpe, York. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. She currently has 10 children under eight years on roll, who attend for a variety of sessions before and after school. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. The family has goldfish, tortoises and snakes.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children play in a healthy environment as the childminder uses clear, consistent hygiene procedures. Cross-infection is well considered and children are reminded to wash musical

instruments that they have put in their mouths to play. Children are fully aware of the need to wash their hands when they return from school before eating and the regular routine in place supports this. Very clearly written policies and procedures on health and safety, which include looking after the pets, are in place and are shared with parents. Accident records are clearly maintained and the childminder has a current paediatric first aid certificate. This ensures good care if a child is taken ill or has an accident whilst in the childminder's care. All medication administered by the childminder is clearly noted and parents sign to acknowledge that it has been given. However, the childminder does not obtain written permission from parents before administering the medication, which is a breach of regulations and contradicts what is stated in the childminder's written sickness policy.

The food provided by the childminder is attractively presented and children are given plenty of choice from healthy options. A selection of juices or water is offered with their snack. Enjoyable activities, such as completing a tasting chart, are used to help children try different foods and promote discussion on healthy eating. Children sit together around the table to eat. This helps develop their social skills and children chat happily to each other and the childminder about their day.

Outdoor garden play after school and regular walks to and from school, including picking up children from after school activities, ensures children have plenty of fresh air and exercise. Children have opportunity and are offered a variety of relaxing activities after school. A limited use of television or computer games is allowed by the childminder.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are competently cared for in a safe and secure environment as the childminder ensures that appropriate safety equipment, such as a fire blanket and plug socket covers, is in place. The childminder has undertaken written risk assessments that cover all areas of her home and equipment, particularly the tree house in the garden. Children are given very good support in learning to keep themselves safe and use equipment carefully. The childminder gives high priority to children's safety when walking to and from school. Children are excellently behaved and fully aware of the dangers of crossing roads. A written fire evacuation procedure is in place for the home. This is regularly practised and accurately logged to ensure that every child is aware of what to do in the event of a fire.

Very good use is made of space within the childminder's home to provide an accessible, child-friendly environment which meets the children's play and physical needs. Children are confident to freely access the very good range of equipment and independently move from one area to another. They are comfortable and happily choose what, with whom and where to play. All equipment is of high quality and suitable for the broad age range of minded children.

The childminder holds a good level of understanding of child protection issues. She ensures she keeps up to date with training and implements effective procedures for the safe collection of children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children engage enthusiastically in activities very quickly on their return from school. They concentrate well and young children are competently supported by the childminder to be

confident in trying new activities, such as games. All children express themselves well; they chatter happily to each other and other adults whilst eating and during activities, particularly when taking specific roles in an imaginary game. They handle books carefully and choose from a very broad variety, which is supplemented from the library, to capture the imagination of all ages. They share well and older children ensure that younger ones can easily see and participate when looking at the pictures. All children play well together and support each other's learning. For instance, older children continue games with younger children if the childminder is called away. Children enjoy warm relationships with the childminder and each other. The childminder constantly offers good encouragement and praise, raising the children's levels of self-esteem and confidence.

Younger children are given good encouragement by the childminder to develop their understanding of number and measure through play. For example, they count sticks after a game then carefully line them up in blocks of 10 and measure the lines to see who has the most. All children enjoy being creative. They join to make collages, which they proudly take to school, and use their imagination well as they enjoy learning to sew. The childminder knows the children well and ensures that, if they have just come back from a rigorous football game after school, they are given time to sit quietly and enjoy a computer game, for instance. She gives good encouragement to children to do homework, after consultation with parents, and checks with the children if any requires doing before they start any other activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are competently supported through a good range of resources and sensitive discussion to understand each other's similarities, differences and the world about them. All children are welcomed by the childminder and she works well with parents to cater for each child's individual needs. The children are encouraged to have strong sense of belonging and feel valued as they share news about themselves and their families. Children confidently ask for help and show care and concern for each other.

All children behave very well and are spontaneously polite and respectful. The childminder acts as a good role model and encourages good behaviour. Procedures, which are shared with parents, to manage any inappropriate behaviour take account of the children's age and development. Clear boundaries and routines are in place, which are consistently applied. Children are happy, settled and confident in this knowledge.

Very good written information is available for parents. Parents are given copies of the childminder's policies and procedures to sign and keep. Further information is available through a newsletter and pinned on a noticeboard in the childminder's dining room. Parents are consulted about their child's care needs and kept well informed of their child's day. The childminder actively seeks the parents' views on the service she provides for the children and families. The questionnaires demonstrate that parents are extremely happy with the care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder organises her space well. The childminder's home is welcoming and child friendly so that children can safely and freely make choices in their play. This increases their confidence and independence. The childminder supports all children well and, although a large

number of children are in place at any one time, the adult to child ratio for children under the age of eight years is always maintained. Children are familiar with their routines and know, for instance, without any reminder, to take their shoes off and wash their hands as soon as they come in from school. The childminder has attended a broad variety of courses, demonstrating good commitment to ongoing professional development and enhancing the care she offers to children.

The welfare, care and safety of the children is not satisfactorily supported as, although the childminder has compiled a wide range of well-written policies and procedures, the medication policy does not reflect her practice. She confidentially maintains her records and registers but does not obtain all the parental permissions that are required under regulation. Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder was asked to record details of the fire evacuation plan practised with children. This recommendation has been met and fire drills are accurately recorded showing when and which children were present. This ensures that all children have a good awareness of fire safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- develop a system to ensure that written permission is obtained from parents before administering medication to children.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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