

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	401292
Inspection date	08 January 2008
Inspector	Elaine Marie McDonnell
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 lives in the rural village of Tockwith, between York and Wetherby, with her two children who are aged 11 and 13 years. She has been registered at her current address since August 1996 and was registered previous to that, in Leeds since July 1991.

The childminder works with her daughter, who is also a registered childminder. She may care for up to five children under eight years at any one time when working alone, and for up to nine children under eight years when working with her daughter. There are currently 12 children on roll aged from seven months to four years, most attend on a part-time basis. There are also two children aged seven and eight years who attend during school holidays only.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes and there is an enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play. Nearby there are shops, schools, childcare groups, parks and country walks.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows good hygiene procedures to ensure that the home and equipment are kept clean. Children are beginning to understand about simple good hygiene practices, such as hand washing, as this is promoted throughout the daily routine. Appropriate written procedures are in place to protect children's overall health and include the exclusion of children with certain illnesses. Accident and medication records are well kept, up to date and include parents signatures.

Children are very well nourished. The menu, and observation, show that they receive a varied range of healthy and nutritious meals and snacks. Lunch-time is observed to be a relaxed and sociable occasion and the childminder receives written information from parents about children's individual dietary requirements.

Children have good opportunities to enjoy physical activity. For example, they participate in dancing and singing activities indoors on a daily basis. They also have opportunities for outdoor play and walks within the local community. Various large play equipment is readily available to promote children's physical skills. Children rest, eat and sleep according to their needs and individual routines, which the childminder is well aware of.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Good steps are taken to ensure that children are cared for in a safe environment. For example, the premises are kept secure, a fire evacuation plan is in place and evacuation procedures are practised and recorded. Parents also receive a copy of the 'fire policy' and children are taught about fire safety. Suitable safety equipment is also in place in the home. Good steps are taken to ensure that children are kept safe when playing outdoors and when on outings. For example, wrist straps and buggy boards are used if required and children are taken for walks in the safer areas of the village, such as along by the fields where there is little traffic.

The environment is very warm and welcoming for the children with a good range of toys and activities readily available for them. Children have easy access to the toys, equipment and furniture, including outdoor play equipment. The childminder ensures that resources are safe and suitable for use by following appropriate checking and cleaning routines.

Children are appropriately protected. The childminder understands her role in relation to child protection issues and is able to put local procedures into practice when necessary. She has a copy of the government booklet and local procedures readily available.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are involved in a good range of activities that cover all areas of development. For example, the daily routine includes 'talk time' when the children discuss things such as the weather and what they did at the weekend, story time, watching certain educational programmes, large physical play and exercise plus craft activities. Children also participate in role play and dressing-up activities, walks and play in the garden throughout the week. Activities are

pre-planned by the childminder on a monthly basis but are flexible to allow for changes and for children's interests.

Children develop confidence and self esteem well when being praised and encouraged by the childminder for their efforts. They show a lot of interest in what they do and enjoy the activities and resources available. Children respond to challenge and concentrate well when involved in various activities. They are observed learning about letters of the alphabet and different colours with support from the childminder.

Children also have opportunities to learn about wider society throughout the year, for example, when involved in activities relating to Chinese New Year and Independence Day. They begin to appreciate their own cultural background when involved in activities relating to the Nativity and Easter. Children have access to resources which reflect wider society such as construction figures, dolls, dressing-up clothes and books.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Equal opportunities is well promoted as all children are included and involved and their individual needs are being met. The childminder knows what each child likes to do, what they like to eat and when they need a sleep. There are currently no children with any learning difficulties, disabilities, or who speak English as a second language attending the setting, however, the childminder has a positive attitude towards caring for children with additional needs.

Children enjoy being with the childminder and enjoy the activities available, they are very settled and happy and make positive relationships with adults and peers. Children are well behaved and the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how to manage behaviour appropriately and promote a positive and relaxed environment.

The childminder works very well in partnership with parents and carers. Parents are kept informed of their child's development and progress through discussions and individual daily diaries. Parents receive good written information about the provision in the form of a useful 'welcome pack'. Various consent forms from parents are available and contract agreements are in place.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder ensures that adults caring for children are suitable to do so as both she and her daughter have been appropriately vetted. The childminder has a satisfactory attitude towards personal development and has undertaken some additional training since the last inspection, for example, child protection and first aid.

Well organised attendance records are kept up to date and show that adult to child ratios are maintained. The childminder has very high regard for the well-being of all children and they receive good adult support and attention. The childminder has a very calm and relaxed manner with the children which promotes a calm and relaxing environment.

All documents and records required for the safe and efficient management of the provision are available and up to date, however, not all records contain parent's signatures, for example, records of existing injuries. Overall, the provision meets 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 obtain information about local child protection procedures and to ensure that all minded children have experience of emergency evacuation routines. Children's safety has been improved as these recommendations have been fully addressed.

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):

- ensure that all records relating to children's injuries include parent's signatures.

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