

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	401447
Inspection date	20 February 2008
Inspector	Carol-Anne Shaw
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 2001. She lives with her family, in a detached house situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, in a village between York and Selby. They live within walking distance of the school, pre-school, shops and other local amenities. For childminding the ground floor only is used and comprises a sitting room, dining room, kitchen and toilet facilities. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of four children, she is presently caring for 12 children who all attend for part-time care.

The childminder and her husband are approved foster carers.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a child friendly environment where they learn about personal hygiene and self-care as they wash their hands in routine activities, such as after using the toilet. They

are well protected from health risks because the childminder has effective systems in place to promote good hygiene and safeguard children from the risk of cross-contamination, such as the use of liquid soap and paper towels. There are clear agreements with parents that children are not minded whilst infectious, with an exclusion period, helping to ensure children's health is well maintained. Children's health and welfare are promoted by the clear systems and records kept by the childminder to take appropriate action in the event of an accident and to administer any necessary medication. The required consents for emergency medical treatment are available.

Children have daily exercise in the garden or as they walk to school, and the childminder has a range of equipment to support physical exercise. They are able to use resources such as wheeled toys. They go out for regular walks in the local area. Children are able to rest or sleep according to their home routines. The younger children follow their individual sleep patterns as discussed with their parents and the older children are able to relax and take part in quiet activities after school. This ensures children's physical development is promoted appropriately.

Children learn about the importance of eating fruit and vegetables daily and grow their own vegetables in the allotment. The childminder also uses activities such as shopping and baking to talk to children about healthy options. Children have fruit for snacks and drinks of milk or water so their health is promoted. Meal times are used to encourage children to learn good social skills when they sit together to eat. Drinks are made readily available, the younger children have their cups easily accessible so they are able to help themselves when they become thirsty. Children's individual dietary needs are established at admission so their health is well maintained.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure and well-maintained home, they are kept safe because the childminder is vigilant about their safety. A good range of measures are in place to ensure this, such as a stair gate, restraints to kitchen cupboards and a secure and enclosed outdoor area. This means children can move around confidently, making good use of the areas used for childminding. Older children can independently select activities from a broad range of toys and equipment, these are rotated for younger children to ensure they have a variety. The childminder ensures all equipment meets safety standards and is regularly cleaned and checked.

Children learn how to keep themselves safe as they understand simple rules about not climbing on furniture within the home. They also learn to keep safe outside the home by practising road safety, and the childminder always takes a mobile phone so she has contacts available in an emergency. Appropriate fire safety equipment is available and children have practised an escape plan so they know what to do if the need arises.

Children's safety and welfare are safeguarded by the childminder's excellent understanding of child protection issues in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. She understands who to contact if she has any concerns and has contact numbers readily available. The childminder gives high priority to children's welfare. She is very aware of her responsibilities in regard to protecting children from possible abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and comfortable in the childminder's care, she takes the time to ensure she knows their individual care requirements. All children have lots of adult time due to her

husband being present for some of the time. This gives children access to lots of adult input and increases children's confidence and self-esteem. Babies have the opportunity to play with a range of resources such as soft and noisy toys, which encourages them to use their senses and explore the environment.

The childminder has a good understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and the Foundation Stage. She uses these to plan a range of activities for children. A varied range of play resources are easily accessible to support children's play and learning. Children's awareness of numbers is well promoted as the childminder uses routine activities to include counting so children become familiar with and confident at this. The childminder reads stories and looks at books with the children so they learn to enjoy them. Young children's communication is well promoted as the childminder talks to them and uses simple phonics so they begin to understand how words are formed.

Children are offered a very good range of both planned and free play activities, which enables them to extend their learning and development in varied and interesting ways. The children enjoy activities such as creative play, modelling dough, baking, small world play and gardening. The childminder has a good awareness of providing activities for the range of ages attending. The older children can choose to play on the computer, help in the allotment in the holidays, enjoy games, complete their homework or relax, chill out and watch the television.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's care and welfare are thoroughly discussed and agreed with parents; the childminder talks to them daily, sharing what their child has done in the day. This ensures parents know all relevant details about their child's day, such as sleeps and food eaten. Children also take home work they have completed so parents can enjoy their achievements. The childminder shows a good understanding of how to make sure all children are included in all activities.

Children behave well because the childminder discusses simple house rules with them. These include talking nicely to each other, so the children understand what is expected of them. The childminder manages behaviour in a consistent and age-appropriate way by distracting younger children and offering older children the opportunity to discuss issues. Good behaviour is rewarded with lots of praise, so children know they have been acknowledged.

Children learn about the wider community, the childminder has a range of resources which promote positive images, for example, they access books, music and activities to raise their awareness of different cultures. Children are encouraged to respect each other and value differences because the childminder treats them as individuals and ensures they all have the same opportunities. The childminder acts as a positive role model.

Parents have good partnerships and trusting relationships with the childminder. The childminder discusses all aspects of practice with the parents during initial meetings. There is a complaints procedure in place, which includes the name and contact number of the regulator.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children are secure and settled in the childminder's home, she has organised the environment to ensure they are always within sight or sound of her. Space and resources are organised

effectively to provide children with a range of activities, which promotes their development. Children enjoy quiet times, watch television and enjoy many activities in the dining room and messy creative activities in the kitchen.

The childminder ensures that the documents and records necessary for the efficient and safe management of the provision are maintained. The arrangements promote children's health, safety and enjoyment effectively.

All adults in the household have been cleared and the children are well protected from visitors by the childminder's secure systems and procedures. Parents are made fully aware of how children will be cared for, the childminder shares her procedures with them. The childminder has completed many training events to keep updated with current childcare issues. She has started the training for the Early Years Foundation Stage, this supports her commitment to providing a good service to all children.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection there were two recommendations made relating to safety and health.

The childminder now has a fire evacuation procedure and has ensured all children are aware of the procedures to be followed in an emergency.

The required permissions for emergency medical advice or treatment are now available for all children attending.

These improvements have added significantly to the safety of children. They support the management of the childminding service and ensure children are cared for in a safe, supportive environment.

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):

- complete the training for the Early Years Foundation Stage and use this to support the childminding service.

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