

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY274284
Inspection date	24 October 2007
Inspector	Linda Cook
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 has been registered since November 2003. She lives in a three bedroom semi-detached house in the Muncaster area of York. The house is within easy walking distance of Yearsley Grove Primary School, shops, parks and other local amenities. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and includes lounge, dining room, kitchen and downstairs toilet. An additional toilet is available on the first floor. There is an enclosed garden at the rear of the property for outdoor play. She is registered to care for six children under eight years and is currently caring three children, two additional children over eight years are also cared for. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care and why these are important in maintaining good health. The childminder ensures they wash their hands after toileting and before eating. She has a clear sick child policy and provides the children with liquid soap or wipes. However, the shared towels they use to dry their hands and faces do not fully protect

them from cross infection. The childminder keeps appropriate accident and medication records, but she has not maintained a current first aid certificate, which is a breach of the regulations. The impact of this on the children is minimal as she has completed a first aid course since registration and her name is down on a waiting list for the next available course.

Children are well nourished. The childminder works in partnership with parents to ensure the children's individual dietary requirements are catered for. The children learn about healthy eating through discussions with the childminder, they discuss which foods are healthy and which should be eaten in moderation. They enjoy baking and help to collect apples from the tree in the garden. The childminder is aware of healthy eating and limits the amount sugary and fatty foods the children eat.

Children have regular of opportunities to promote their physical skills. They enjoy walks out to and from school, to local play parks and shops. They use the garden to enjoy the fresh air, they like to build dens and to dig in the garden and sand pit. Indoors there is clear space where children can move freely and safely.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into the family home. The childminder ensures all reasonable safety measures are taken to prevent accidents. Children learn how to keep themselves safe both indoors and outdoors. They are taught how to cross roads safely on outings and the childminder discusses stranger danger with the older children. While the children occasionally practice the emergency evacuations, in order to ensure their safety, these need to be practiced regularly and a record maintained.

The children independently select from an appropriate range of toys and resources made available to them and rotated to maintain their interest. They are all clean and cover all areas of learning. The childminder ensures they are stored appropriately to develop children's independence while ensuring very young children cannot access unsuitable games and toys.

Children are protected from harm through the childminder's good knowledge of child protection procedures. She keeps appropriate information on file including local contact numbers and has attended child protection training. Child protection issues are discussed with parents to ensure they are fully aware of the childminders duty to safeguard children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled, happy and relaxed in the childminder's house. They are confident in their surroundings and very much at home. The childminder is attentive to their individual needs and offers a satisfactory range of activities for the children in her care. The children develop their independence as they select resources and choose what to do. All children are able to be active or rest according to their needs.

The childminder demonstrates she is able to meet the varying needs of the children she cares for. She is interested in what the children say and do and spends her time involved in their play and offering support and encouragement. The children are interested and motivated, they enjoy art and craft activities and baking as well as free play. They have enjoyed making scented mobiles from baked cinnamon apples and are making decorations from clay ready for Christmas.

They talk about the things they see when they are out, they identify everyday objects, learn to count and recognise colours, ensuring all children build on what they know and can do.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are made to feel welcome and at home. The childminder ensures she is aware of their individual needs and routines, through discussions with parents and written information, to enable her to provide appropriate care. Children are beginning to learn about their local community through their trips out, planned activities and resources. In summer months, children enjoy day trips to places of interest, such as the beach which increases their opportunities to explore and investigate and learn about the wider world.

Children are well behaved and they receive praise and encouragement for their achievements. The childminder encourages the children to share and take turns and to be considerate to each other. The clear and consistent boundaries ensure children are aware of the expectations of their behaviour and as a result they are relaxed, happy and develop positive self esteem.

Children benefit from the positive relationships developed and maintained with parents. Contracts are used and a system is in place for these to be reviewed with parents. Parents are kept fully informed of their child's achievements, they receive daily feedback at delivery and collection each day and they ring each other in the evening if there are specific issues to discuss.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are made to feel at home in the environment which is organised to satisfactorily meet children's needs. The childminder ensures the available space is used effectively to ensure children are able to initiate their own play and learning. The childminder organises her time well to spend with the children, meeting their needs effectively.

Contracts are completed with parents and clearly state the business arrangements. Children's registration forms are used to record any specific needs the children may have and ensure these are recognised and catered for. The requirements for documentation are met and records are stored appropriately to maintain confidentiality. However, parents are not provided with Ofsted's contact details. 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 childminder was asked to make the garden roller safe so children could not move it, to ensure children follow good hygiene routines after toileting and also to ensure accident records are confidential and signed by parents.

Wooden blocks have been wedged under the garden roller ensuring children are unable to move it. All children are consistently encouraged to follow good hygiene routines after visiting the toilet and the childminder has provided wipes for those children who cannot reach the sink. Accidents are recorded one to a page, which maintains confidentiality and parents sign all entries. As a result children's safety and welfare is further 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):

- complete an approved first aid course that includes training for infants and young children
- provide children with individual means of drying their hands and faces
- ensure children are provided with regular opportunities to practise the emergency evacuation procedure and a record of these maintained.
- ensure parents are provided with Ofsted's contact details.

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