

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY276565
Inspection date	04 January 2008
Inspector	Pauline Garfield
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 was registered in 2003. She lives with her husband and their daughter aged four in Thorne near Doncaster. The whole of the 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 five children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five and two children over eight years. The children are cared for on a full and part time-basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a tank of fish.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children choose the colour of the water bottle they wish to use and have access to fresh drinking water at all times. Children are encouraged to develop their social skills and sit at the table for

meals and snacks. The childminder has a good understanding of healthy eating and provides healthy snacks of fruit, such as apples and oranges. Meals are home cooked, nutritious and healthy. Children's and parents' preferences are catered for appropriately and any special dietary requirements adhered to.

Children are well protected from illness and infection as they follow good personal hygiene procedures, which are part of their daily routine. Children wash their hands before eating and after visiting the toilet. They wash their hands with liquid soap and dry them on individual named towels. Children know to cover their mouths when coughing. This results in children developing a clear understanding of their own personal hygiene needs.

Children have access to a good range of physical activities, which contribute to their good health. They access a range of outdoor play equipment when the weather permits, such as a climbing frame, bicycles, skipping ropes and a swing ball. In the summer months the childminder organises games, such as hopscotch and writing with chalks in the garden. Children are able to rest or be active according to their needs. They enjoy walking to and from school and attend local playgroups and toddler groups. This results in children developing a positive attitude to exercise as they benefit from the effects of fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder identifies risks and hazards and takes steps to minimise them to allow children to move around freely and safely. For example, she encourages children to sweep the sand from the floor to ensure they do not trip and fall. The childminder encourages children to take responsibility for their own safety and teaches them about stranger danger and road safety. Smoke alarms and a fire blanket are in place, and children practise the emergency evacuation of the building regularly.

Children's toys and equipment are of good quality, conform to safety standards and are presented appropriately to allow freedom of choice and independence. The childminder ensures equipment and resources meet the individual needs of the children that attend. For example, a booster seat ensures all children can access meal times at the same time and toys are age and developmentally appropriate.

The childminder has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities with regard to child protection matters. She has attended a recent refresher course and has updated her policies and procedures in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a balanced range of activities and experiences which include daily opportunities for them to relax, be creative and use their imagination. For example, children enjoy playing with play dough and say 'I have made a Princess'. They play with a toy cash register and the childminder promotes colour recognition and counting. Children are interested in the activity and enjoy the learning experience. The childminder promotes children's communication, language and literacy and talks to them about everyday experiences, such as going to school. Children look at a robin in the garden and talk about the environment. They are relaxed and settled in the childminder's home.

The childminder uses a written planner to record activities for the week. Activities include drawing with felt tip pens, 'moon sand' and baking. 'Moon sand' is placed on a play tray on the floor and children feel the texture and make shapes with it. Children enjoy making sounds and tunes with a toy electronic keyboard. They play with a toy pram and push dolls around the home. Children make requests for toys and the childminder responds appropriately. She has a good relationship with the children who are happy to approach her. This gives children confidence to acquire new skills and develop their self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder works well with parents. She has a folder which she encourages parents to take home and which contains policies and procedures, and a copy of her last Ofsted report. Children and parents also benefit from effective information sharing through daily conversations.

A clear and consistent approach to managing children's behaviour encourages children to behave well. They learn right from wrong in a warm and caring environment. Children are given clear instructions and guidance and this results in them knowing what is expected of them. For example, to share toys and to be kind to one another. Children are praised and encouraged for their achievements and developing milestones, for example, toilet training. The childminder has a good understanding of equal opportunities and how to support children with learning difficulties and disabilities. Religious festivals are celebrated and the childminder has a range of toys and resources which promote diversity and positive images of children from the wider world.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease in their surroundings. They move around the home confidently and are clearly happy and settled in the environment, which contributes to their overall well-being. Space is well organised and equipment and resources are attractively displayed.

The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards and her responsibility to maintain confidentiality, and inform Ofsted of any significant events. Children's records are up-to-date and adult-child ratios maintained. Children each have an individual file which includes accident and medication forms. Policies and procedures promote children's welfare, care and learning. However, some written policies and procedures have not been updated to reflect the good practice of the childminder. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Two recommendations were raised at the previous inspection relating to documentation and the use of antiseptic wipes and plasters. All concerns raised have been fully addressed. Written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is in place and parents are consulted regarding the use of antiseptic wipes and plasters. All of which ensures children's safety and welfare is maintained.

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 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):

- continue to update policies and procedures.

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