

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	317848
Inspection date	02 October 2007
Inspector	Sharon Watson
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 1998. She lives with her two teenage children in Tickhill a small village near to Doncaster. 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 currently has seven children on roll who attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group and takes children to the local library and parks.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from premises that are clean and very tidy. Effective procedures are implemented to prevent the spread of infection. In particular, parents are informed of infectious diseases and children do not attend when they are ill. Systems are in place to help children take responsibility for their own hygiene. For example, they routinely wash their hands and access individual hand drying facilities. Good systems are in place to enhance children's welfare, for example, a clear medication procedure is implemented.

Children enjoy regular outings to local parks, farms and woodlands. This provides opportunity for them to engage in robust physical exercise that promotes their health and well-being. Outdoor equipment, such as trikes, sit 'n' ride, and see-saw support children's movement, balance and coordination. Children's dietary requirements are managed in partnership with parents and their wishes are respected. Nutritious meals are provided for all children and freshly prepared each day. Fresh drinking water is accessible to children at all times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into the setting and are at ease in their surroundings. The main play room is child orientated and reflects children's work helping them to gain a sense of belonging. Children access a good range of safe and suitable toys stored at low level to promote their self-selection. These are rotated on a regular basis to maintain children's interest and provide new experiences. Suitable equipment, such as a travel cot, pushchair and feeder chair are used to aid children's comfort and promote their independence.

Children move safely around the home and benefit from the childminder's vigilant approach to managing their supervision. Equipment to promote children's safety is in place, for example, safety gates are fitted to stairs and this helps children to recognise no-go areas. A fire safety procedure is implemented and practised routinely with the children. This helps them to take responsibility for their own safety. Good safety measures are observed when taking children on outings. In particular, children learn how to cross the road safely. The children benefit from the childminder's sound knowledge of signs and symptoms of abuse and the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedure. This enhances their safety and welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and well cared for. They are self-assured to try out new experiences, in particular, pre-school children enjoy using playdough as they explore, pattern and texture. Learning is extended as they use rolling pins and cutters to promote their fine manipulative skills. They are beginning to make connections and show a sense of achievement as rolling pins are banged together to create sound. Activities are planned to give children a wide range of learning experiences, for example, the summer topic has been 'my garden'. This helps children to learn about living things and natural materials have been used creatively in art and design.

The local park is used on a regular basis and provides opportunity for the school age children to run around freely after the restraints of the school day. Children choose their activities and contribute their ideas. In particular, older children are involved in the planning of Halloween activities. They enjoy baking and making simple snacks, therefore promoting their independence and raising their self-esteem. Children enjoy attending the toddler group on a regular basis. This provides them with a change from the home environment and helps them to build relationships.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures all children are treated with equal concern. She has a sensitive approach to meeting their individual needs. In particular, children are well supported with feeding and

made comfortable when they are tired. Children follow a routine each day, such as hanging up coats, taking off shoes and self-selecting toys and resources. This helps them to feel secure and gain a sense of belonging. Children enjoy a balanced range of toys and resources and are free to choose their play. They learn to understand diversity and be respectful of others through play. In particular, toys, books and posters reflect positive images of other cultures. Festivals are celebrated and children learn about Chinese New Year through cultural activities and food tasting.

The individual needs of the children are well met in partnership with parents. In particular, daily diaries are shared to monitor children's progress and implement care routines. A consistent approach to managing children's behaviour is maintained as strategies are implemented in partnership with parents. Children take responsibility for their own behaviour as they contribute to the rules of the setting. They remain busy and interested, and therefore this limits the number of incidents. A comprehensive setting portfolio and most policies and procedures are shared with parents to enhance children's care. However, the complaints procedure does not reflect current practice.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children benefit from the childminder's well organised approach to managing their care. Children can move around easily between rooms on the ground floor. The conservatory offers children opportunity to engage in floor play, such as constructing with the train track. The lounge provides an area in which children can relax and enjoy quiet activities, such as reading and sleeping. All toys and resources are organised well to ensure suitability for children. Adult-child ratios are maintained and the childminder works within the constraints of registration. Children's attendance is recorded and maintained up to date.

The childminder is committed to training to enhance children's care. Documentation is well organised for ease of use, in particular children's details. All documentation is stored securely and therefore maintains children's confidentiality. 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 it was recommended that the provider record all existing injuries to children. The provider has implemented a recording procedure to enhance the welfare of the children.

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):

- gain up to date knowledge of the procedure when dealing with complaints.

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