

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300147
Inspection date	12 November 2007
Inspector	Geneen Yvonne Hulse-Brown
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 1990. She lives with her family in a detached property in Sheffield. Local shops, schools and parks are within walking or driving distance. The childminder has three grown up children.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding; this includes kitchen, lounge, dining room, playroom, downstairs toilet and hallway. Upstairs access is to one bedroom for sleeping. Children have access to a fully enclosed area for outdoor play to the rear of the property. Children are escorted to and from local schools.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding four children who attend on a part time basis. The childminder works with a co-childminder as needed.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of fun activities that contributes to keeping them healthy. Regular outdoor activities and walks help them develop good control of their bodies. They have fun playing outdoors, developing their physical skills and exploring their surroundings. Children enjoy choosing whether to play indoors or outside in the garden, as the conservatory doors are open for them to move in and out. The childminder takes the children on regular outings to the local toddler group, library and the woods to see the squirrels. This enables the children to broaden their interest and understanding in their environment and the natural world.

Children are starting to know when they are hungry and need a drink. The childminder recognises the needs of the individual children in her care. She offers drinks and snacks by agreement with parents and following younger children's home routines. The childminder demonstrates a very good understanding of the children's likes, dislikes and allergies and has a high commitment to healthy eating. Children enjoy healthy and nutritious snacks and meals, such as fresh fruit and vegetables.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean environment. They learn the importance of good personal care through daily routines due to the childminder's consistent approach to hygiene. They know why they wash their hands before eating and after changing, as the childminder consistently talks to the children to reinforce personal hygiene practice. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate for working with children and babies and uses the National Childminding Association documentation for recording accidents and medication. Parents have a good understanding about the childminder's policy for caring for sick children, as she maintains information about childhood illnesses on file and this is easily accessible to parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and child friendly home where all potential risks are minimised. They negotiate their way around the home in safety, as they develop independent skills. The childminder consistently reinforces good practice as she spends time helping children learn how to keep themselves safe. She uses stories and words appropriate to the children's level of understanding to explain about taking care, for example, when running from room to room and taking care when climbing.

Children make active choices from a wide range of toys, games and books that meet safety standards. All equipment is easily accessible to the children in boxes and on low shelves allowing them to help themselves and extend their independence. The childminder maintains high levels of supervision, appropriate to the children's ages and abilities. She allows them space to explore, whilst always being aware of where they are and what they are doing.

The childminder demonstrates high regard for the children's well-being and has written procedures in place to keep children safe. She has a well thought out fire evacuation procedure that she shares with the children when they are old enough to understand. The childminder has taken advice from the fire service to ensure she maintains all required safety features and follows their recommendations. She demonstrates a good understanding of child protection issues and procedures, knowing who to contact with any concerns. The childminder has not

yet updated her policies and knowledge to reflect Local Safeguarding Children Board recommendations.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive happily and soon settle very well at the childminder's home. They happily become involved in a wide range of stimulating and challenging activities. Children are confident to demonstrate their independence as they help themselves to activities, such as cause and effect toys, building bricks and books.

Children enthusiastically make choices from easily accessible boxes of toys, games and creative materials suitable for their ages and abilities. They are busy, motivated and absorbed in their play as they extend their imagination, acting out roles using small world toys and people. Young children are starting to concentrate well as they listen to stories, cuddled up on their childminder's lap.

Children establish very good relationships with the childminder, playing games, having fun and building on what they know. They demonstrate good self-esteem, as the childminder uses praise and encouragement for attempts and achievements. The childminder uses every opportunity to extend language and progress their play. She introduces number and colours when looking at books and shapes when completing posting boxes and stacking toys. The childminder has just started to look at 'The Early Years Foundation Stage' pack and is in the process of developing a recording system with her co-childminder to support their work.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a wide range of quality resources and offers fun activities to promote children's self-esteem. She takes the children to the library to choose books and effectively uses all resources to introduce children to the wider world and promote a positive view of diversity. Children talk about and share home experiences, they are confident, make choices and ask questions.

Children are valued and respected; they behave well and their needs are met, as they follow daily routines as agreed with parents. The childminder recognises the abilities of all the children and supports them to try new skills and undertake new experiences. She actively supports children to achieve their full potential, as she researches specific conditions to support her work. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of the statementing process, which in turn helps her effectively support families of children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She recognises when children need individual attention and responds accordingly, for example, when babies are tired and need a sleep.

Children learn good behaviour and respect for each other due to the childminder's sensitive approach. Parents give and receive good quality information and have established strong relationships with the childminder. This ensures a consistent approach to the care of the children. The childminder has produced a comprehensive file of information with her co-childminder for parents to take away and keep as reference. It includes policies, contracts, a typical day and information about the childminder service offered. All information is colour coded to reflect the National Standards and Early Years Foundation Stage. The childminder has started to use photographs to show parents how children learn and what activities they enjoy. Children are

secure and happy as they confidently make decisions about what they want to do at their childminder's.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are relaxed and at home in a well organised environment, where they are confident to initiate their own play. The childminder effectively maintains very good records in a well organised manner ensuring all children's information is up to date. She has well established systems to ensure that parents are well informed. The childminder is in the process of updating her portfolio to support her working practice; therefore, some policies do not fully reflect the new changes to legislation. All children's records are up to date, confidential and kept securely. The childminder demonstrates a high commitment to personal development by accessing training opportunities to enhance the service she offers. She has produced a self evaluation system with actions for areas she plans to improve. The childminder meets regularly with fellow childminders and is well supported by her co-childminder who has helped develop well organised and comprehensive documentation.

Flexible planning offers children space to make active choices and plan their own time. The childminder sensitively supports and guides them to extend their play and learning. Creative use of all available indoor and outdoor space provides children with a stimulating, fun and challenging environment. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The recommendation from the childminder's previous inspection relating to documentation has been effectively met and supports the organisation of the service offered.

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):

- further develop an understanding of Local Safeguarding Children Board recommendations
- consider further developing existing systems to support good practice.

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