

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY331980
Inspection date	06 March 2007
Inspector	Hilary Mary Mckenning

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 registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and daughter aged three years, in a small village near Barnsley. Children access the whole of the ground floor, which includes bathroom facilities. There is a fully enclosed area for outdoor play. The family has a dog.

The childminder may care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently caring for five children on a part time basis.

The childminder takes and collects children from the local school. She meets regularly with other local childminders and is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local sponsored network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good range of challenging physical activities. Regular visits to parks, soft play areas, daily walks to school and access to an outdoor play area, allows children to develop their

all round physical skills. For younger children there is a range of everyday objects to squeeze and hold to encourage exploration and development of physical skills.

Children are cared for in clean and well-maintained environment. They are protected from illness and infection, as they learn the importance of personal hygiene through good practice and daily routines. For example, younger children have wet wipes and are encouraged to wipe their hands after lunch. This results in children actively learning about the importance of personal hygiene. Arrangements for the care of pets are in place, although children's access to pets feeding dishes should be restricted.

Children are well rested and alert and so enjoy their play. This is due to the childminder following children's individual eating and sleeping routines that are discussed with parents. This ensures children thrive as their individual needs are met successfully.

Children enjoy a good range of healthy snacks and drinks, which takes into account children's dietary needs and parents' wishes. This contributes significantly to children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle. Meal times are an opportunity to help children to enjoy their food and become independent in feeding themselves. Younger children are encouraged to share control and are encouraged to feed themselves using fingers, forks and spoons. This provides opportunities for sensory learning and increased independence.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well-maintained and safe environment. Positive steps ensure children are able to move around designated play areas independently. Potential hazards are addressed in order to maintain a secure environment both indoors and out. For example, the use of safety gates, socket covers and smoke alarms means children can move around freely and safely. Children learn to keep themselves safe as the childminder involves them in discussions about safe practice. For example, children understand the consequences of climbing on furniture or running around inside with clear explanations given to children about safety.

The childminder is aware of her role and responsibilities concerning child protection matters and recognises the signs and symptoms of possible abuse. However, there is no identified process should an allegation be made against herself or a family member.

Children easily access a range of quality resources allowing them to make choices safely. Careful monitoring of the children's toys and equipment ensure they remain safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Furniture is of a suitable design, conforms to safety standards and helps to create an accessible and stimulating environment.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled with the childminder. They are secure within the established daily routines. Particular attention is given to developing children's social skills. The childminder promotes children's self-esteem as they receive lots of positive praise and encouragement for their achievements. Children are encouraged to be independent, make informed choices and have fun through play. They have access to a range of activities, which promotes their learning and fun. For example, children identify familiar objects as they play with the jigsaws and look

at the books. They are familiar and secure with the established daily routines that allow time to play, rest and eat together.

Arrangements with parents are in place to meet individual children's needs. Children benefit from individual routines that are consistent with experiences at home. Children relate well to the childminder, enjoying the time they spend together. There are close and affectionate relationships where cuddles are a regular feature. For example, young children giggle as they enjoy messy play activities. Children are learning appropriate social skills and enjoy being with other children and adults. This results in them being able to build meaningful relationships.

Children have regular opportunities to run and play as they access local outdoor play areas. They enjoy regular exercise, which helps develop coordination and physical skills through walks to the park, local amenities and schools.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with equal concern and their individual needs are met appropriately. Children are content and showing a sense of belonging. They are familiar with daily routines and have a trusting and friendly relationship with each other and the childminder. Children are confident to ask questions, voice opinions and make choices.

The childminder has a reasonable understanding of promoting equality of opportunity and provides a suitable range of toys and equipment, that reflects equal opportunities and diversity to promote children's awareness of the wider world.

Children receive positive praise and encouragement for their achievements, which develops their confidence and self-esteem. Strategies used to manage children's behaviour are consistent and take into account children's level of understanding and maturity. This positive approach to behaviour management establishes clear and realistic boundaries for children and promotes their welfare and development.

Partnership with parents is satisfactory. The childminder works with them in order to meet individual children's needs. For example, she finds out about children's preferences and routines. There is daily regular communication with parents about their child's care. However, not all required parental permission forms are in place, such as those regarding the transport of children. Children benefit from the partnership with parents and settle well in response.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and settled within the childminder's home which means they move around with confidence and are able to explore the environment safely. Space and resources are organised to meet the children's needs allowing children to follow their individual routines, promoting their development. Children receive appropriate levels of care and attention.

Most of the required documentation is in place and is organised to maintain confidentiality. Routines are responsive to individual needs and support children's care and development.

The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of child development and a high regard for the well-being of children. She manages her time and the numbers of children she

cares for so that she is able to provide good levels of care and supervision. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 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):

- ensure pets feeding dishes are not accessible to children
- further develop knowledge and understanding of child protection in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board
- ensure all permission forms for transporting children are in place.

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