



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300580
Inspection date	14 December 2005
Inspector	Tracey Jane Outram

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 husband and two children aged 14 and 13 years. The family live in a house that is situated in a village near Sheffield.

Minded children have access to the lounge, dining area, kitchen and first floor bathroom. There is a small enclosed garden to the rear of the property. The premises are within easy reach of local schools, shops and transport links. The childminder presently has 13 children on roll most of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminders Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they are taught the importance of good personal care. The childminder effectively reduces the risk of infections and cross contamination in the home by implementing consistent hygiene measures. For example, teething toys and play food are washed at the end of the day and outdoor shoes are not allowed in areas where babies play on the floor.

Children benefit from a well balanced and nutritious diet. They learn the importance of eating healthily and they are offered a varied selection of meals consisting of fresh vegetables and fruit. Sugary snacks are provided infrequently and healthy options such as fruit or cereal bars are offered as an alternative. The children are encouraged to develop some control over their eating and meal times. For example, young children are provided with a range of finger foods to encourage their independence and abilities to feed themselves whilst babies begin to share some control of their bottle.

Each day children are taken on interesting and varied outings. This includes walking locally, attending toddler groups and visiting parks. The many opportunities that they are offered helps to extend and develop their physical skills and enables children to understand the positive effects of exercise. Babies are provided with a stimulating assortment of toys that encourage their physical development. For example, they reach out to hold and touch musical equipment and pull themselves up to standing in order to see more and explore their surroundings.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in premises that are clean and warm. The childminder implements good levels of supervision to keep children safe. She ensures that basic safety precautions are always implemented in order to protect children from danger and minimise risks. For example, she uses a good range of nursery equipment such as gates, plug socket covers and cupboard locks, all of which successfully contribute to maintaining a safe environment.

On outings the children are carefully monitored by the childminder. Public play areas are always thoroughly inspected before children are allowed to use any of the equipment. The childminder is prepared to act professionally to maintain children's wellbeing in the event of an accident or emergency. She has a valid first aid certificate and she carries children's contact details and written permission for emergency treatment or advice.

Children have access to a good range of toys and play materials. The resources are

suitable to address a wide range of children's needs and interests. They are well maintained and children are able to use the equipment safely.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of the indicators of child abuse. She understands that she has a responsibility to monitor children and record injuries or changes in their behaviour. She is aware that her concerns and recordings should be passed to local child protection officers in order to safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children spend their time purposefully. They are motivated and willing to participate in broad range of developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities that provide good levels of challenge. The childminder ensures that children of all ages can self-select toys from a good range of age relevant resources, this successfully encourages children's independence and decision making abilities.

The daily routine is organised to involve outings along with regular periods of play that successfully encourage the children to build relationships. The children playfully interact with the childminder and respond to her with enthusiasm as she joins in their play feeding dolls and completing simple puzzles.

Young children are effectively helped to extend their vocabulary and understanding, for example they look at books together and name familiar household items, animals and familiar adults. Good levels of physical contact encourages babies to interact and communicate, they are alert, comfortable and confident to explore a stimulating range of resources. The children clearly enjoy the company of the childminder; they relate well to her and enjoy caring and warm relationship.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder treats all children with equal concern. She talks with the children's parents to find out about their individual needs including their health and dietary requirements. Children have access to a limited range of toys and resources that help them to recognise and value diversity in the wider community.

The childminder implements a clear, consistent and sensitive approach to managing behaviour. Behaviour boundaries are set within children's abilities and levels of understanding to enable them to conform and achieve. They are supported to learn right from wrong in a secure and caring environment and they respond well to the clear guidance, praise and encouragement that they receive.

Good systems are in place to talk to parents and establish children's meal times, rest and sleeping needs. This positive approach to working with parents helps in building trusting relationships and ensures that the needs of the children continue to be successfully addressed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of children's play and care needs. As a result the children benefit from a structured daily routine and they enjoy a good balance of inside and outside play opportunities. The childminder manages her time to ensure that she gives children the attention they need to help them feel content and secure.

Children's personal records are up-to-date and well ordered; they are stored appropriately in order to maximise their privacy. All other mandatory documentation including the systems to obtain and store the necessary written parental consents are well organised, this adds to the efficient management of the childminding service. However, parents do not have access to any formal policies and procedures. They are not routinely informed about the sickness policy or complaints procedure and systems to record medication lack some of the required detail. Overall, the provision meets the needs of all the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- ensure that there are appropriate systems in place to record the time and size of dose of any medication administered to children

- provide parents with access to a complaints procedure and sickness policy.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk