

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300043
Inspection date	27 May 2008
Inspector	Yvonne Victoria Facey
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 was registered in 1992. She lives with her husband and three adult children in a village to the north of Sheffield. The family has a dog and a cat. The house is within walking distance of local shops, schools and other amenities. The ground floor rooms of the house are used for childminding. The garden at the front of the house and the rear patio are available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. There are currently four minded children on roll.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept free from infection by the childminder's appropriate procedures to exclude children if they are ill and a written policy has been devised. Their personal hygiene is promoted

because the childminder has given satisfactory consideration to health and hygiene procedures to prevent the spread of infection. For instance, she encourages children to wash their hands before meal times. Satisfactory procedures are in place for children if they have an accident and for giving medication. For instance, the childminder has a current first aid certificate and written parental consent for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

Parents currently provide packed lunches for their children. Children are given regular drinks throughout the day including water. The childminder finds out about dietary needs including any allergies. Children enjoy an appropriate range of physical activities both indoors and outdoors. Regular outings and routines help them develop good control of their bodies. For example, they enjoy visits to the park and playing in the garden where they can develop their physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a sound awareness of potential hazards and takes suitable steps to promote safety. For example, dangerous substances are out of the reach of children and safety gates are in place. Children have access to a suitable safe range of toys, furniture and equipment which is appropriate to their age and abilities. Children are beginning to understand how to keep themselves safe and avoid injury as the childminder reminds them to be careful when exploring their environment. For example, she explains to children not to climb on furniture because they might hurt themselves. The childminder supervises children well. The childminder has a suitable awareness of the emergency evacuation procedure and is clear which exits she would use if necessary and she has practised with the children.

The childminder recognises her responsibility and has a suitable understanding of procedures she must follow if concerned about a child. However, she does not have the latest recommended local authority guidance to follow the full procedure.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled, happy and confident in the childminder's home. Children can make choices and develop independence from the activities which are available to them. They enjoy the satisfactory range of activities provided, which are suitable to support their developmental needs. For example, they enjoy stories, building and playing with the train track. The childminder is aware of providing simple learning opportunities for children through discussion and suitable interaction with them. She shows an interest in what children do and say by listening and talking to them. Interaction between the childminder and the children is warm and caring. As a result, the children are confident with her. The children are cared for in a relaxed environment where their individual needs are suitably met.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The children's individual needs are met by the childminder who takes suitable steps to get to know them. For example, relevant information is gathered from parents to ensure children's individual needs and daily routines are met. The childminder provides a range of appropriate resources which help to increase children's awareness of diversity and the wider world. The

childminder is aware that some children may have additional needs and ensures all children are included in the activities provided. As a result, they are developing an positive understanding of the feelings and needs of others.

The childminder works closely with the parents to settle the children in and provide an effective daily routine to meet all their needs. Written permissions are obtained and policies are shared. However, the complaints policy is not detailed to fully inform parents of the correct procedures to follow.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Documentation and children's records are readily available and up to date, including the daily registers to show that ratios are maintained at all times. The childminder has devised written policies to share with parents. However, the complaints and safeguarding children policies do not clearly inform parents of correct procedures.

There are suitable security measures in place to protect children's confidentiality. For example, records are stored together in one place and accessible. Space and resources are organised to meet the needs of all children. Children move freely around the setting, demonstrating confidence and independence.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection actions were raised to ensure that all records were available for inspection and that they were kept up to date providing the required information. The childminder has successfully implemented these actions and now keeps detailed information about children's care. Written consents, a daily register and a system to record medication are all in place. She has reorganised the storage of her documentation and it is kept in an orderly manner. Improvements made ensure that children's welfare and safety is suitably promoted.

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 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):

- review complaints policy to fully inform parents of procedure
- familiarise self with Local Safeguarding Children Board 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