

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY357975
Inspection date	08 April 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 2007. She lives in Sheffield with her husband and three children aged 12 years, nine years and seven years old. All areas on the ground floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. There are currently four children on roll.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has suitable procedures in place to promote children's good health. She ensures children learn when and how to wash their hands at the right times. For example, before meals and after using the bathroom. Children do not attend if they are sick and parents are kept informed of any illnesses. The childminder has accident and medication administration procedures in place. However, the written parental consent for each course of medication is not clearly

recorded. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate, which ensures that children can be treated appropriately in the event of an accident.

Children benefit as the childminder has a suitable awareness of healthy eating and ensures

they have a balanced and nutritious diet. There are sample menus available to inform parents of what is offered. Main meals and snacks are provided as required and include fresh fruit, soup and sandwiches. Drinks are readily available. There are daily opportunities to enjoy physical activities, such as visits to soft play areas, walks and visits to the park to extend children's gross motor skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to play in an environment which is safe and secure. Children learn to keep themselves safe by readily tidying away toys after use. They have discussions about safety while outdoors and practise good road safety routines. Children learn about fire safety procedures and are involved in the emergency evacuation procedure.

Children have good space to enjoy a range of activities in the homely environment. They have free access to the range of resources, which are interesting and of good quality. Children enjoy playing with and choosing resources, such as books, bricks and cars from boxes stored at their level. Children are safe as the childminder has a good knowledge of potential hazards and has taken the appropriate steps to minimise these. Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's sound understanding of her responsibilities within child protection procedures. She is familiar with the new procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled and familiar with daily routines. They are encouraged to choose their own activities and the childminder ensures all children are stimulated and busy with the toys. Learning resources are regularly changed to keep the children interested and challenged appropriately. Babies enjoy a warm relationship with the childminder through lots of cuddles and eye contact. Their learning is promoted because the childminder talks to them about what they are doing. For example, she names the colour of the different toys and sounds letters during play.

Visits to the toddler group provide meaningful opportunities for the children to socialise with their peers and to enjoy play in a different environment. The childminder uses her knowledge of the children's individual needs and provides suitable activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are all treated with equal concern and they are supported well because their individual needs are provided for. They are learning about diversity through their access to resources which reflect positive images. Children's behaviour is good and they respond well to guidance from the childminder. The childminder has developed good working partnerships with the parents. She has written policies and procedures, which are given to parents. For example, equal opportunities and managing behaviour. However, the complaints procedure is not fully

understood by the childminder but she has some systems in place that she shares with parents. Parental consents have been obtained from parents which include emergency medical treatment and taking photographs. Verbal feedback is given to parents at the end of the day to ensure they are aware of their child's day.

The childminder has a positive attitude towards all children and they are cared for in a welcoming environment. She understands the importance of offering an inclusive environment and is committed to ensuring she can meet all children's needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and at ease with the relaxed atmosphere of the childminder's home. They show confidence and are happy in their play. The childminder has a sound understanding of her role and responsibilities. Her registration certificate is displayed for parents and children's daily attendance is accurately recorded with times of their arrival and departure. Most required documentation and record keeping is in place and readily available. The childminder obtains necessary information from parents regarding all children's individual needs.

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.

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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 prior written permission for the administration of all medication is clearly recorded

- develop own knowledge of the procedures for 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