

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY358942
Inspection date	30 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 partner and their two children aged three years and five years. All areas on the ground floor and upstairs bathroom and children's bedroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. There are currently three children on roll. The childminder works alongside her partner who is also a registered childminder.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's nutritional needs are appropriately met and they have a well balanced diet provided in consultation with their parents. Children receive appropriate meals, snacks and drinks when they attend. For example, they have sandwiches and shepherd's pie and fruit and vegetables. Drinks are freely available; mainly milk and water. Children have sufficient opportunities for exercise. They walk to and from school, visit local parks and enjoy physical activities, such as

playing football and dancing. This helps them develop a healthy lifestyle and increases children's enjoyment of exercise.

Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment where they are learning the importance of good personal care. They wash their hands before eating and after messy activities. Children are learning the importance of good practice through daily routines due to the childminder's consistent approach to hygiene. For example, children have separate flannels and towels and food preparation areas are cleaned thoroughly. The childminder records information about any medication or dietary needs children may have. She has attended first aid training and has sought written consent from the parents to administer first aid. Although there is a policy to seek emergency medical treatment, parents have not been asked for their written consent. As a result children's medical needs are not fully met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming environment. The childminder takes positive steps to ensure children are kept safe, as she identifies and minimises risks in the home to ensure all areas and equipment used by the children are safe to minimise accidents. For example, risk assessments are completed on all areas children access. Children are well supervised, as the childminder keeps them in her sight and within hearing distance at all times. Regular fire drills are practised with the children and the childminder ensures that practises are conducted from all areas that children use and are logged. As a result children are beginning to understand the importance of keeping themselves safe.

Children have appropriate choices of toys, games and activities that meet safety standards. Equipment is suitably organised and easily accessible and appropriate for the ages and abilities of the children cared for. There is a range of safety equipment, such as a fireguard, safety gates and socket covers. This ensures that children can move around the home in a safe manner. Children receive protection through the childminder's suitable understanding of the possible signs of abuse. She discusses and records any existing injuries with parents. She has attended recent training and is familiar with the new procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy being with the childminder and settle well in a friendly and homely environment. Children have opportunities to take part in a balanced range of activities, such as craft, construction and baking. Children have trusting relationships with the childminder and are content and happy. They demonstrate good self-esteem, as the childminder uses praise and encouragement consistently for their attempts and achievements. There are suitable opportunities for children to explore their environment. For example, very young children enjoy choosing the toys they want to play with. The childminder considers individual children's ages, interests and abilities when planning activities, which ensures that activities are suitably challenging and helps children to make progress in all areas of their development. Progress records are completed which the childminder is beginning to use to plan children's next steps.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a positive attitude towards including all children and recognises the importance of working closely with parents to meet children's individual needs. The childminder gathers information about children's routines to enable her to meet children's needs successfully. Policies are shared with parents at the beginning of the placement and they have the opportunity to take a welcome pack home with them to inform them about the service offered. The pack also includes clear procedures informing parents how to make a complaint.

The childminder offers gentle support and guidance to help children learn to support and be kind towards one another. There are simple house rules in place that are shared with parents and help children to begin to take responsibility for their behaviour. The childminder is aware that some children may have a range of learning difficulties or disabilities. She is willing to adapt routines and work with professionals and parents to meet specific needs. Adequate resources of diversity are in place to help the children's understanding of difference. However, her understanding of how to further develop children's awareness of diversity is limited. Children feel a sense of belonging because they are warmly welcomed by the childminder and are happy in her care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Space and resources are used appropriately so that children can move around freely and explore their environment in a safe manner. Children's records and documents are stored confidentially. The childminder has a sound understanding of the National Standards which is used to produce policies. The children receive consistent supervision and have good opportunities to have free play and structured activities. They have suitable times to rest and eat throughout the day. Flexible planning allows children to make choices whilst the childminder supports and guides them to extend their play and learning.

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 which 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):

- obtain written permission from parents to seek emergency treatment and advice
- improve knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities.

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