



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	400895
Inspection date	01 August 2006
Inspector	Linda Cook
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 1992. She runs her childminding business from the family home, which she shares with her husband and their two adult sons and daughter.

The family live in a converted property near Glaisdale village; the detached property has an enclosed garden to the side for outdoor play. Minded children have access to the whole of the ground floor. She is registered to care for six children under eight years and is currently caring for six children under five years, all part-time.

A school and playgroup collection service can be arranged from Glaisdale village on four days per week. Children are transported by car, with parents' written permission.

There are animals at the property but only the three cats and two pet dogs enter the house.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children take part in a wide range of activities which promote their good health. They independently access a secure area of the garden and spend a lot of time outdoors. They run, climb and use an extensive range of resources which develop their physical abilities to a good level. Indoors, children play tapes, dance and move to music. Young children enjoy their fortnightly visits to 'Fit Tots' where they enjoy physical activities with their peers.

Children are cared for in a welcoming home which is clean. They are encouraged to follow good hygiene routines, washing their hands after attending to personal care needs and before eating. Children's health is further ensured because the childminder has a good understanding of preventing cross infection. She has a clear sick-child policy and holds a current first aid certificate.

Children are well nourished. Parents provide main meals which the childminder prepares and serves. They have regular drinks through out the day served in appropriate containers which helps children of all ages to develop their independence. The childminder provides mid-morning and afternoon snacks, which sometimes include fresh fruit, but is usually a biscuit; this does not fully promote healthy eating.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment. The childminder is positive in her approach to ensure all reasonable steps are taken to prevent accidents occurring. The effective organisation of the space enables children to move around freely and make choices in their play, both inside and in the garden. The range of toys and resources is of a good quality and offer children sufficient challenge. Children develop their independence as they self-select toys which are stored to be safely accessible to them.

Children begin to learn how to keep themselves safe as the childminder explains to them the reasons behind the boundaries in place. The children are made aware of what they do if there was a fire and a three-year-old explains he would ring 999 and tell the fireman the address. Children's welfare is further assured because the childminder has a good understanding of child protection procedures and has attended child protection training which she regularly updates.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Excellent relationships are developed between the children and the childminder, which contribute to their sense of belonging. The children are settled and relaxed in her care, making themselves very much at home. The childminder demonstrates that she is skilful in meeting the varying needs of all the children she cares for. She adapts activities and resources to ensure all children are able to enjoy and take part regardless of their age and stage of development. Children

benefit from the positive interaction as the childminder is actively involved in their play. Trips to places of interest, such as the library van, the village shops and a local agricultural show further extend the children's opportunities to broaden their knowledge, explore and investigate.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities, both planned and child-led, which offer sufficient challenge and are interesting and fun. They particularly enjoy outside play, feeding the hens and collecting the eggs. Indoors, they enjoy colouring, baking and dressing-up. Their imagination is developed to a good level as they take part in role play activities. For example, as they line up small chairs and pretend they are in a Land Rover taking animals to the vet, sit on the stairs going on a bus ride and make cups of tea using the small world kitchen in the garden. The childminder recognises the informal learning opportunities that are present in a childminding setting. They talk about the things they see on the farm, count everyday objects and identify colours. As a result children are interested and motivated, and their all round development is promoted effectively.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are made to feel very welcome and at home. The childminder ensures she is aware of their individual needs and routines, through discussions with parents, to enable her to provide appropriate and consistent care. Children are beginning to learn about their local community and the wider world through their trips out, activities and resources. They attend other childcare groups in the dale where they have opportunities to mix with their peers.

Children are very well behaved and the childminder sensitively intervenes when disputes over toys and resources erupt. She encourages the children to share and take turns and to be considerate to each other. The effective use of praise and encouragement ensures children feel relaxed, happy and develop positive self-esteem.

Children benefit from the positive relationships developed and maintained with parents. Verbal information is exchanged daily at delivery and collection. The childminder is flexible in her approach to meeting the childcare needs of parents. The parents and childminder will ring each other if there are specific issues to discuss and often meet each other on other social occasions in this small rural community.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her time very effectively to meet the needs of the individual children she cares for. The available space and resources are very well organised to promote easy access and children's independence. She is very aware of the younger children's individual routines and these are effectively accommodated to ensure consistency of care. She has a positive approach to her own development and the inspection process. She is a qualified child carer and is also the person in charge at the local playgroup. She continues to attend regular training to ensure she keeps up to date with new developments and to maintain the quality of care she provides.

All requirements of the National Standards for documentation and record keeping are met effectively. Documentation is very well organised to ensure it can be accessed easily in an emergency, while maintaining confidentiality. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to specifically include aspects of working with babies and children under three years within her ongoing programme of professional development.

The childminder has attended training on the Birth to three framework and uses this effectively in her practice in caring for young children. This ensures children make good progress in all areas of their development and continue to benefit from the good quality care provided.

Complaints 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.

There are no complaints to report on.

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):

- provide a more varied range of snacks which include healthy options.

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