



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	401140
Inspection date	06 October 2005
Inspector	Christine Tipple

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1989. She lives with her husband and two children aged 7 and 8 years old. They live in a three storey mid terrace house in the centre of Scarborough. She is registered to mind a maximum of five children under 8 years, and is currently minding two children under 5 years old who attend full and part time.

The areas used for childminding are the playroom on the ground floor and access to the bathroom and designated bedroom on the first floor. There is a rear garden which is enclosed for outside play. The childminder takes and collects from local primary

schools and pre-schools.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association, and of the local childminder support group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of positive activities and routines that promotes their good health. They have regular access to outdoor provision, which develops the children's physical skills effectively. Children walk on a regular basis to local facilities and pre-school. The children have access to a variety of equipment both inside and out that offers good opportunities for them to practise their skills. For example, access to swings, a slide and various sit and ride toys and soft play equipment. Children use their fine motor skills through creative activities and regular use of smaller toys.

The children manage their personal care very well through access to appropriate facilities and the routines in place. Older children are developing their independence in their self care in washing their hands after certain activities. Clear details are provided on the care of children who are ill to prevent cross infection through good practice.

Meals are provided by parents but the children have snacks provided by the childminder, these are varied and offer a healthy choice. The children have fruit, the childminder offers a selection for them to try, such as strawberries and grapes. Dietary requirements are recorded and respected.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and child centred environment, which promotes their safety effectively. Good use is made of the space provided and children are able to move around freely to access the resources and facilities offered. Children select from a positive range of toys that are of good quality, stimulating and age appropriate.

The children are aware of safe practices when outside, for example, crossing the road and walking together. The children have regular practices of the evacuation procedure. The childminder records all checks on the smoke alarms. Older children show they are aware of the younger children when playing together. Toys and equipment are monitored by the childminder to be effective in preventing accidents occurring.

Children are protected through the childminder's access to child protection training and the information in place, which ensures the welfare and safety of the children in her care is promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled, happy and relaxed in the childminder's care. The older children put their name on the board as they arrive and complete the daily calendar. The equipment, toys and resources are easily accessed by the children, which offers them a good selection and independence in their choices. Children are keen to be involved and the childminder is aware of individual needs and supports their skills effectively.

The range of activities enables all the children to participate, for example singing and action songs, the younger child copying the older child. Communication is ongoing and the children are encouraged to chat about themselves, ask questions and talk about what they have been doing. For example, a visit to the fair ground and starting pre-school. Children's creative work is displayed for parents. Children have positive learning experiences in their play and this is extended through outings to children's groups, which enhances their social skills and use of equipment, such as the soft play area. Children display a positive sense of self and confidence in their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Individual children's needs are valued and met appropriately. There are some resources in place that promote the wider society positively and encourage children's awareness. Children are confident in their surroundings and in their relationship with the childminder, which is nurtured effectively.

Behaviour is managed very well. Children respond well to each other and develop skills in sharing and turn taking. Good manners are encouraged and children are comfortable in the routines and boundaries in place. The childminder is sensitive to the children's needs and provides encouragement and praise effectively with them. The older children have a good awareness of the young children, taking time to involve them in their play.

Partnership with parents is good. The childminder has some detailed information that she shares with parents to inform them of the range of provision and care provided. Daily contact keeps parents informed about the activities their children have participated in and enables them to share information. The playroom also gives parents insight into what the children have achieved from the displays. Contracts of agreement are established with parents to promote a shared approach to the care their child receives.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The premises and space for the children is well set out for them to access freely the positive play opportunities provided. The childminder is organised and efficient in the

care she provides. She has attended some training and uses the internet to find additional information in relation to childcare.

There are some policies and procedures in place which are effective in promoting children's care and safety. Documentation and record keeping is maintained overall and relevant. However, some information is not detailed sufficiently in the areas of parental consent in a medical emergency and the accurate times the children attend. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection recommended that: the childminder develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues; extend the range of resources that promotes equality of opportunities; and ensure the safety of heating appliances.

The childminder has attended child protection training, which has extended her skills in ensuring the welfare and protection of the children she cares for. There is a reasonable selection of resources that promotes equal opportunities appropriately to enable children to learn about diversity through their play. The heating system has been serviced and appropriate records put in place to ensure safety is maintained.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. 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 written parental permission is requested for the seeking of any emergency medical advice or treatment and the daily record of attendance is accurate and up to date.

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