



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	303166
Inspection date	16 November 2005
Inspector	Angela Howard

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 was registered in 1988. She lives with her husband and two sons, in a large village in the borough of Rotherham. The ground floor of the premises is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She currently has six children under 5 years and three children over 5 years on roll. The childminder walks and uses the car to take and collect children from the local school. She meets regularly with local childminders and attends local toddler and carer groups.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from illness and infection as they follow good hygiene procedures and are cared for in clean and well maintained premises. They are encouraged to learn the importance of personal hygiene through good practice and daily routines. For example, they are reminded about the importance of washing hands before meals and after outdoor play. The childminder uses effective cleaning methods to prevent cross contamination which helps to maintain children's good health. For example, she regularly sterilises and washes toys.

Children enjoy a good range of challenging physical activities. Regular visits to parks, soft play areas, daily walks to school and access to a well-equipped outdoor play area allow children to develop their all round physical skills. For babies there are a good range of everyday objects to be sucked, pulled, squeezed and held to encourage exploration and development of physical skills. The access to a wide range of physical activities contributes to children's good health in a positive manner and ensures that they develop confidence in their physical abilities.

Children are well-rested and alert and so enjoy their play. This is due to the childminder following children's individual eating and sleeping routines that have been agreed with parents. Children's rest and sleep routines are flexible, therefore, children are able to choose to rest quietly or play. This ensures children thrive as their individual needs are met successfully.

Children enjoy a good range of healthy snacks and drinks, which takes into account children's dietary needs and parents' wishes. This contributes significantly to children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle. Meal times are treated as an opportunity to help children to enjoy their food and become independent in feeding themselves.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in safe and well-maintained premises. Positive steps have been taken to ensure children are able to move around designated play areas independently. Potential hazards are effectively addressed in order to maintain a secure environment both indoors and out. For example, the use of safety gates, a fire guard, fire blanket, socket covers, smoke alarms and a fully enclosed outdoor play area means children can move around freely and safely. Children are actively encouraged to be aware of their own safety and how to avoid accidents. For example, the introduction of road safety procedures when off the premises and the clear explanations given to children about safe practice indoors. This results in children being given the opportunity to practice what they can do in safe

surroundings and young children learn some sense of danger. They enjoy a good balance between the freedom to explore and the childminder's setting of safe limits.

Good quality resources are easily accessed allowing children to make choices in a safe manner. Children's toys and equipment are very carefully monitored to make sure they remain safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Children are appropriately protected as the childminder is well aware of her role and responsibilities with regards to child protection matters. She has a clear understanding of child protection procedures and recognises this is her first priority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and content. They are confident and settled in the environment. There are good daily routines in place, which help children to feel secure and at ease in their surroundings. The flexible routine allows children to pursue their own interests so that they discover more about what they like and dislike.

Children make their own choices about their play from a good range of resources. They are encouraged to access resources themselves, so developing their sense of self-assurance. Younger children engage in concentrated imaginative play in which they extend their language, try out new ideas and select suitable resources as they have a tea party. Children access an interesting range of activities and experiences. Activities provide good levels of challenge, appropriate to the age and stage of children's development and are what they are interested in. For example, the range of equipment is linked to the individual needs and interests of children attending. Therefore, children spend their time purposefully and enjoy playing with the toys provided.

Children relate very well to the childminder. They share a warm and caring relationship with each other and have formed good friendships. Children are learning appropriate social skills and enjoy being with and talking to adults and other children. This results in them being able to build meaningful relationships.

Children are developing good communication skills as the childminder actively listens and responds using everyday routines such as meal times to talk to and encourage children to vocalise. For example, the children talk about the smell of an orange, the taste and how juicy it is. She is highly skilled in encouraging vocalisation and the taking part in early "conversations". The childminder is interested in completing Birth to three matters framework training to enable her to further enhance the care of babies and young children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern and their individual needs are met well. This

is due to the childminder taking time to get to know the children and working with parents to ensure their daily routine is followed successfully. Children are very happy and content and are showing a strong sense of belonging. They are familiar with daily routines and have formed good relationships with each other, the childminder and her family. This results in children being independent and feeling safe and secure, through which they develop self-confidence, a belief in themselves and healthy self-esteem.

Children's awareness of the local community is promoted well through regular outings and visits to the local carer groups. They have equal access to all resources and are beginning to learn about the wider world through the use of books, small role play people and dolls that positively address diversity.

A clear and consistent approach to managing children's behaviour effectively encourages children to behave well. Children are given clear instruction and guidance and this results in them knowing what is expected of them. For example, they are given clear explanations when they are asked to conform, or in the case of younger children distraction techniques are used effectively. This results in children learning right from wrong in a warm and caring environment.

Partnerships with parents and carers are very good which contributes to the children's overall wellbeing. Ongoing verbal communication ensures that parents are kept up-to-date about their child's care. Children are clearly benefiting from the positive partnership and are very settled in response to this.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The premises are very well organised. Space is used effectively to maximise play opportunities for children. Children feel at home and at ease in their surroundings. This results in children remaining settled and feeling secure in their surroundings.

Documentation is kept in a well-organised and professional manner and confidentiality is maintained at all times. However there is no documentation in place for the recording of any complaints. The childminder is enthusiastic and committed to improving her practice through a programme of good quality, relevant training. For example, since her last inspection she has attended first aid and child protection training. Children's experiences are enhanced as the childminder uses training opportunities to improve her practice.

Required adult-child ratios are met; this provides good levels of care and supervision to ensure children are well supported in their learning and care. Overall, the provision meets the needs of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two actions and seven recommendations were made. The actions related to improving regulatory documentation. The recommendations related

to updating some documentation and gaining written consents from parents.

The childminder now has in place all necessary documentation which meets regulatory requirements. As a result, children's care and wellbeing is maintained effectively.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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.

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):

- continue to develop the range of opportunities and experiences for children under three, for example by using the Birth to three matters framework.
- devise a system for recording complaints

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