



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300187
Inspection date	22 August 2005
Inspector	Geneen Yvonne Hulse

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 1985. She lives with her family in a semi-detached property in Sheffield. Local shops, schools and parks are within walking distance. The childminder has 4 children over the age of 12 years.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding; this includes lounge, kitchen, dining room and conservatory, with upstairs access to the bathroom, separate toilet and two bedrooms for sleeping. Children have access to a fully enclosed area for outdoor play to the rear of the property. Children are escorted to and from local schools.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and is part of the local childminder support group. She attends regular toddler groups with the children during the week. The childminder is registered to care for 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 12 children who attend on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of physical activities which contribute to their well being. Regular daily walks and routines help them develop good physical control. They explore their surroundings with interest, using regular outdoor play, planned and spontaneous activities to learn how their bodies work. Children enjoy walking to and from school and preschool, with outings to local parks to broaden their understanding and interest in the environment. They take part in many activities to develop and improve their physical skills both indoors and out.

Children recognise when they are hungry and need a drink and will ask for things, such as, asking when it is lunchtime and what is for snack. Children enjoy nutritious meals and snacks in accordance with parents' wishes. Mealtimes are social occasions where children sit together and chatter. The childminder has a strong awareness of children's likes, dislikes and any allergies.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean environment where they learn the importance of good personal care. They know why they wash their hands after playing outdoors, doing craft activities and before eating. Children learn the importance of good practice through daily routines and good practice.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and child friendly home where risks have effectively been minimised. They confidently move around the home, both indoors and out in safety, developing their independence. The childminder successfully helps the children understand how to keep themselves safe by talking about good practice. For example, being careful to keep small pieces away from the baby and taking care outside on the wet grass.

Children enthusiastically choose toys and games from a wide range that meets safety standards. Equipment is stored in boxes and cupboards for them to access in safety and they can make choices from well planned floor based activities. The childminder maintains high levels of supervision appropriate to the children's ages and abilities. She has well organised procedures in place, which allows them to explore in safety, extend their independence and build their confidence.

The childminder has high regard for the children's well being. She holds a current first certificate and demonstrates a very clear knowledge of child protection issues.

Effectively systems are in place to ensure documentation for recording accidents and medication are accurate.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle very well at the childminder's home. They are confident, make themselves at home and are busily involved a wide range of interesting and challenging activities. Children relate well to the childminder and demonstrate their independence, such as, asking to play outside and getting the crayons out of the cupboard to draw pictures. Children make choices from a wide variety of toys, games and creative materials suitable for their ages and abilities. This is due to the childminder's approach to ensuring activities are attractively set out through out the home.

Children are busy, motivated and absorbed in their play and explore their natural creativity through use of paint, glue, play dough and collage. They play imaginatively acting out roles using dressing up and small world equipment, such as, play kitchen, garage and cars, to use their time purposefully. The childminder has started to use the Birth to three matters framework to support her work and recognises the importance of continuing to develop her understanding to meet the needs of children under three.

Children establish very good relationships with the childminder and demonstrate good self esteem. The childminder effectively supports children's early communication skills, as she listens to them, engages in conversations and responds positively to non verbal communication. She consistently joins in their games to extend and progress their play. For example, making drinks with the children in the play kitchen and helping find the next magnetic letter to make their name.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a wide range of meaningful resources and offers activities to promote children's self-esteem. She uses good quality resources to introduce children to the wider world, promote a positive view and increase their awareness of diversity. Children talk about what they have done at school and share home experiences. They are confident and show positive self-esteem, by making choices and asking questions.

Children are valued and respected, they behave well and their needs are met as they follow daily routines, as agreed with parents. They are encouraged to respect each other and embrace differences. The childminder recognises the abilities of all the children and supports them to attain new skills and undertake fresh experiences. Children learn good behaviour and respect for each due to the childminder's sensitive and calm approach. She has methods in place to encourage children to be responsible and recognise the needs of others.

Parents share and receive quality information as they build secure relationships with the childminder. This in turn ensures a consistent approach to the care of the children. Children happily make themselves at home and confidently make decisions about what they want to do.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children are relaxed and feel at home in a well organised environment, which allows them to be confident and initiate their own play. The childminder has effective systems in place that support her working practices and promote the children's care and well being. She shares information with parents regularly, maintaining all required records in a well organised manner to ensure information is up to date. This contributes to the continuity of children's care and well being. The childminder has produced a booklet to keep parents informed and has identified that she plans to continue to develop this to support her working practices.

Flexible planning systems allow children to make choices and plan their own time, with the childminder supporting and guiding them to extend their play and learning. Creative planning of all available play space, offers children a stimulating and interesting environment, where they enjoy a wide range of challenging activities. Overall the childminder meets the needs of all the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Previous recommendations relating to producing a written fire and complaints policy have been addressed. The childminder has completed a child protection course and continues to keep updated on new legislation. This effectively contributes to keeping children safe.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?
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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 an understanding of the needs of children under three, for example by using the Birth to three framework
- continue develop information for parents, for example extending existing booklet.

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