



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY311317
Inspection date	25 January 2006
Inspector	Jill Lee

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 2005. She lives with her partner and three young children in Barnsley.

The downstairs only of the house is used for childminding, except for access to the bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family have two pet rabbits, they also have three birds which live in an aviary in the garden.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently caring for three children. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy lots of outdoor activities in the fresh air, which contribute to their good health. They have regular exercise as they walk to and from school each day. They love playing in the garden and also frequently walk to the nearby field, where they enjoy games of football and putting, practising different skills and hand-eye coordination. Younger children have walk-along toys which help their developing mobility, they hold onto furniture as they find their feet and practise walking.

The childminder helps children to stay healthy. She understands the importance of good hygiene practices, for example, she wears disposable gloves to change nappies and ensures dummies are kept clean. Children learn about good hygiene in everyday routines. The childminder talks daily with parents so she is aware individual needs, for example, she knows the baby does not like to lie on her back for long. Children's rest and sleep routines are flexible, so that they are content and enjoy their play. However, parents are not fully informed about required exclusions if children are ill and there are no clear agreements about seeking emergency medical advice or treatment in an emergency.

Arrangements for snacks, meals and drinks are negotiated carefully with parents so that children's individual dietary needs are met. They enjoy a varied range of nutritious and healthy, freshly cooked meals, based on a four weekly rota which is shared with parents. The childminder offers drinks regularly and children can help themselves to drinks when they are thirsty. Mealtimes are relaxed and sociable occasions when everyone sits together at the big table, sharing news and conversation. Babies enjoy close cuddles when they have their bottle, with lots of eye contact and warm smiles. The childminder talks with older children about which foods are healthy and why it is important to eat a healthy diet and have lots of exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's different needs are catered for safely by well-planned use of available space. The childminder gives priority to safe supervision and takes into account the age range present when planning different activities. Risks and hazards are appropriately assessed to promote children's safety and enjoyment, for example, a portable electric heater is used to warm the conservatory and is removed before children play in there. The side gate is always secured to prevent children opening it.

Children have access to a good range of toys and equipment, which are maintained in a safe condition. They use the whole environment, moving freely between rooms. Older children can visit the toilet independently. The childminder plans activities to help children become more aware of safety issues within their everyday experiences, to increase their awareness about how to keep themselves safe. They learn about road safety as they walk to and from school and to the field. Younger children know

they must wear reins.

The childminder gives priority to keeping children safe and implements required health and safety procedures appropriately. She understands her responsibility to protect children but is not sufficiently familiar with the Area Child Protection Committee procedures and recording requirements. She gently supports children to make their own needs known and is sensitive to the impact of home circumstances on children's moods and feelings.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a relaxed and child friendly environment. They choose quiet or active play according to how they feel and their current interests, older children often like to relax and watch television for a time on their return from school. They are able to access resources independently, encouraging them to use initiative to plan their own play. The childminder talks with parents to find out what children enjoy and involves the older children in planning ideas for activities and outings. Activities are very child-led.

Children are able to select from a good range of resources and activities to support their indoor play. They enjoy stories, singing and making models with bricks. Creative activities are currently very popular, as the children love developing their own creative ideas. They love 'cutting and sticking' and making pictures. They enjoy role play, getting out the hairdressing bag to play at hairdressers, and like to dress up, which promotes their imaginary play. The childminder plans frequent activities outdoors and in the local community to vary their experiences. She has identified that she would like to develop ways to enhance the play experiences of the younger children.

Children are very settled and content in the childminder's care, relationships are warm and relaxed. They behave well and begin to understand why some behaviour is unacceptable, they take turns and share toys with other children. They learn to be polite and are reminded to say please and thank you.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop confidence as they play cooperatively and enjoy regular outings in the local community. The childminder helps children to begin to consider the needs and feelings of others. For example, they learn to take turns and help others join in their games. Children make their own decisions as they decide what they will play with, they confidently choose activities and get out resources to support their play. They have some resources which raise their awareness of other cultures and different abilities, such as dolls and books. The childminder introduces some activities to help children learn more about different lifestyles and varying needs, for example, how festivals are celebrated in other cultures and religions.

Children receive support and encouragement as they play. Rules are very simple but clear, and the childminder explains the reasons for them so that children understand. Children develop a growing awareness of themselves, they contribute to their own everyday experiences, and manage some of their own needs. They begin to take responsibility for their own behaviour and show that they understand why certain rules are in place, for example, they only get toys from certain drawers, which are for children's use.

The childminder works closely with parents to understand children's needs and ensure appropriate links with home, this helps them to feel secure and included. Information is shared effectively on a daily basis, so that children's needs are met. Parents are encouraged to share any concerns, but the childminder is not fully informed regarding new guidance about dealing with complaints.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The environment is well organised to support individual needs. Children's health and welfare are promoted by flexible and responsive planning and the childminder's ability to involve children and take account of their ideas. The childminder plans access to training and development opportunities, which contribute to her ability to plan enjoyable experiences for children.

Children are kept safe and their welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's clear understanding and implementation of most required policies and procedures. All required record keeping systems are in place and most agreements reached with parents are clear and fully recorded.

Overall the childminder promotes children's well-being and satisfactorily meets the individual needs of all the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

The childminder 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 parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and develop clear procedures, which are shared with parents, to ensure sick children are excluded
- become more familiar with required child protection procedures and recording requirements
- review the range and quality of experiences planned for younger children, perhaps by using ideas from the Birth to three matters framework
- familiarise yourself with new guidance with regard to dealing with any complaints from parents.

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