



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY314230
Inspection date	08 February 2006
Inspector	Diane Lynn Turner

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 September 2005. She lives with her husband in a semi-detached house on the outskirts of York. Her adult daughter, who is attending higher education also lives at the house during the holidays. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding two children on a part-time basis, one of whom is over eight-years-old.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean home, where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. The house is maintained to good standards and there are effective procedures to ensure good hygiene practices are followed. For example, the childminder has a written policy for the care of children who are ill; the parents are given a copy of this. The children learn about good hygiene practices. For example, they know they have to wash their hands after toileting and before eating and they readily do so on their return from school, before they have a snack or undertake activities, such as baking. They know they have to wipe the table down after completing activities, such as baking. The children are eager when participating.

Children learn about keeping healthy. They have daily opportunities to develop their physical skills. For example, they walk to and from school each day, play in the garden and visit the nearby parks to use the large play equipment. They are able to rest according to their needs. For example, the older children are able to relax and enjoy quiet activities after school.

Children benefit from healthy snacks and meals. They are well balanced, nutritious and comply with individual dietary needs and parental wishes. The childminder talks to the children about what food is good for them. The older children demonstrate a very good understanding of this. For example, they know the benefit of eating plenty of fruit and vegetables. They demonstrate good social skills as they sit at the table to eat. Drinks are made readily available. For example, children have their cups easily accessible, so they are able to help themselves when they become thirsty. The older children are provided with a drink on their return from school. They are also aware that they can ask for more as and when required.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well organised home where most risks to their safety are clearly identified and minimised. For example, the childminder checks all areas indoors before the children arrive each day, ensuring that all precautions, such as socket covers and safety gates are in place. She routinely records the monthly checks carried out on the smoke alarms to ensure these remain in working order. This means the children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. However, the garden area is not risk assessed as effectively. For example, unused garden canes, some tools and plant food are accessible to the children in this area. All of which pose a danger to their safety. The childminder is effective in helping the children to understand how to keep themselves safe. For example, she talks to them about road safety as they walk to and from school. She also discusses the emergency evacuation procedures, ensuring that the children know what to do in the event of a fire. The childminder supports and encourages them to keep safe as they play. She does this by offering gentle reminders to follow safe practices when using

particular equipment.

There is a very good range of toys and resources to support children's learning. These are very well- maintained but they are not organised effectively. This is in place, ensuring that the children are able to make choices and access these independently. For example, there is a good range of books but these are stored on a high shelf, out of the children's reach.

The childminder has all the required documentation to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, she holds a current first-aid qualification and has appropriate insurances. She has a secure understanding of the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures. The childminder is also very clear of her responsibilities in regard to protecting children from possible abuse. She knows what to do if she has concerns

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's house because she is very attentive and has a very calm, caring manner. They are confident in their surroundings and are very much at home. As a result, they develop close and trusting relationships with her. For example, the older children happily relate their day at school to her and readily accept her support as they complete home work, such as reading.

The children are offered a good range of activities, which enables them to extend their learning and development in varied and interesting ways. They all spend their time purposefully. For example, they enjoy regular creative activities, such as baking and craft, when they enthusiastically decorate their own biscuits and make book marks. They learn about growth and the care of living things, as they plant and grow broad beans. The children show great interest, comparing how much these have grown. The older children clearly enjoy the time they spend with the childminder at the end of the school day, when they are able to relax or be active according to their needs. For example, they are able to direct their own play, take part in planned activities, such as baking. They also participate in quiet activities, such as drawing. Their efforts are clearly valued as the childminder helps them to put examples of their work, including drawings, into a scrap book. This provides the children with a record of their time with her. The children all relate extremely well to one another, showing care and consideration. Their behaviour is very good. They are happy, settled and keen to talk about their experiences with the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder helps the children to develop a positive view of the wider world and increase their awareness of diversity and understanding of others. For example, they learn about festivals, such as the Chinese New Year. They also have good opportunities to learn about their local community. This is covered with visits to the

nearby park and walk to and from school.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder discusses their individual needs with their parents, who are kept well-informed about the provision. The children show care and concern for each other and they play well together. They behave extremely well, because boundaries are explained very effectively at their level of understanding. They enjoy each other's company and feel at home in their surroundings. They respond positively to the childminder's clear guidance. They model their behaviour on her very good example, such as the older children readily help the younger ones with tasks, such as washing their hands. They are polite when addressing visitors, using good manners and confidently decide what they want to do. The childminder's consistent use of praise and encouragement ensures the children feel self-assured and supported in becoming confident in what they can and can't do.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel very much at home and at ease in the childminder's care. The provision of a well-organised and supportive environment enables them to move about freely and independently. However, toys and resources are not always organised effectively to ensure the children are able to access these independently.

Clear procedures help the service operate smoothly and efficiently. They are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. For example, there are written policies relating to all areas of the provision, which are signed by the parents to say they have read and agree to these. Parents are kept well-informed about the service and their child's activities, through daily discussion. This helps to ensure that the children's care needs are being met continuously. The childminder shows a good commitment to extending her knowledge and improving her practice through training. For example, she has recently attended courses relating to child protection and ideas for games activities. All documentation is in place to ensure the service operates safely and efficiently, such as attendance, accident, medication and child record forms but the childminder is not aware of all the recent changes to the National Standards. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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 the garden is maintained in a safe condition by making hazardous materials inaccessible to the children, in this case garden canes, tools & plant food
- improve the organisation and presentation of toys and resources in the play room to promote children's choice and independence
- ensure information is obtained about the recent amendments to the national standards and associated legislation.

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