



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300067
Inspection date	22 March 2006
Inspector	Lynn Rodgers

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 1992. She lives with her husband in a residential area in Sheffield. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house, plus the first floor bathroom, is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under 5 all day for some days of the week. The childminder does not take or collect children from the local school. The family have a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a healthy diet through healthy and nutritious snacks, which include fresh fruit and vegetables. They are provided with water, tea and milk to drink throughout the day. The childminder takes into account the wishes of the parents and children's preferences to provide foods that appeal to the children and meet their dietary and religious requirements.

The environment is warm, clean, safe and well maintained. Children are able to rest or be active according to their needs and are well protected from harm. The childminder has a copy of the Birth to three matters framework, but has yet to use this guidance to enhance her provision.

Children are familiar with daily routines and the importance of practising personal hygiene skills. They know, for example, when to wash their hands to prevent the spread of germs, particularly after they have been to the toilet. Effective procedures are followed by the childminder to protect children from illness and infection. For example, regular cleaning routines for toys and equipment and the home environment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to ask for toys and activities from a good range of resources. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to ensure they are safe, age appropriate and in good condition. Children are encouraged to help tidy away toys they have finished with to help them take responsibility

The childminder ensures children are cared for in a safe, secure environment where risk of accidental injury is minimised through satisfactory safety and security precautions. This means children have room to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder sets acceptable examples for children to follow and helps them to understand how to keep themselves safe, both inside and outside the home. Road safety is encouraged during outings and walks. However, some improvements need to be made regarding safety measures within the home.

The childminder has all the required documents and procedures in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, she has an understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local area Child Protection Committee procedures. She has the relevant information, booklet and flow chart to help and guide her through the correct procedures when reporting any concerns about a child placed in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Most children are cared for on a part time basis, for example, two or three full days at a time. The childminder sets out favourite toys prior to the children's arrival, for example, the dolls, prams and baby clothes and small world items. They have a good relationship with each other and are happy and contented.

Children are very settled at the childminder's house. They enter with confidence and make themselves at home. For example, they know the routine for removing outdoor clothes and getting ready for a snack time. The childminder encourages the children to interact with her own grand children and this means they are beginning to build meaningful relationships and enjoy being sociable. The childminder encourages independence and self help. For example, choosing toys they like.

Toys and resources are plentiful and provide children with stimulation. They are used to sufficiently challenge the children or provide opportunity for them to explore and investigate. The childminder ensures children have plenty of fresh air and exercise through outdoor play and visits to the local parks.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children show concern for each other, generally playing harmoniously together. They behave well through clear guidance, praise and encouragement from the childminder. House rules are established and children are aware of what they can and cannot do. Appropriate strategies are in place to manage a wide range of children's behaviour.

Partnership with parents is effective and they are fully conversed in the daily routines and what their child has been doing. Regular verbal communication ensures they are aware of the service the childminder provides. The childminder shares all relevant information with parents, and they have been informed of the procedure to follow should they wish to make a complaint.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and their needs are met well as they follow their daily routines. Parent's wishes are taken into account when establishing children's needs and all relevant information is recorded at the initial visit. Children learn about the local community and have access to satisfactory multi-cultural resources reflecting diversity and the world around us.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Most documentation is in place and available for inspection. The childminder records the names and details of the authorised persons collecting the minded children. However, the exact times of children's arrival and departure are not recorded in the daily register. Emergency contact numbers are recorded and kept close at hand to enable her to call parents quickly.

Documentation is stored away safely and out of reach of persons not authorised to see it. Relevant information is shared with parents and confidentiality maintained. Children's safety is addressed satisfactorily to ensure they are cared for in a safe and secure environment. Adult-child ratios are maintained and children are fully supervised. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children in attendance.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder has obtained written parental permission for the minded children to access the family pet. This means they will be fully supervised by the childminder, with full parental consent.

Any existing injuries are recorded in the childminder's incident book to ensure details are noted and signed off by parents.

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 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 knowledge and understanding of the Birth to three framework
- provide a suitable smoke alarm on the first floor
- keep a record of the exact times of children's arrival and departure.

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:

