



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	300091
Inspection date	16 June 2006
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 1988. She lives with her family in a terraced property in a suburb of Sheffield. Local shops, schools and parks are within walking distance. The childminder has three grown up daughters.

The ground floor is used for childminding, including lounge and dining room, with access to outdoors via the kitchen. Upstairs access is to the bathroom only. There is a secure tiered grassed garden space to the rear of the house with additional space in the shared yard for outdoor play. The family have a cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding four children who attend on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children undertake a broad range of activities, which contributes to their good health. They enjoy outdoor activities and walks, which helps them develop good control of their bodies. The childminder sensitively helps less mobile children participate in physical play by supporting and encouraging their mobility. Children have fun outdoors to develop physical skills and explore their surroundings. They enjoy playing on bikes, sit and rides and climb steep outdoor steps with increasing confidence. The childminder takes the children on regular outings, to toddler groups and the local park to broaden their interest in the environment.

Children are starting to know when they are hungry and need a drink. The childminder offers regular drinks and children can ask for a drink when they need one. Children receive nutritious snacks in accordance with parent's wishes, such as toast, fruit and milk. The childminder has a sound awareness of children's likes and dislikes, showing a good understanding of catering for allergies and cultural differences. She demonstrates a strong commitment to healthy eating.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean environment where they are learning the importance of good personal care. They know why they wash their hands before meals and are starting to develop good hygiene skills. All children have their own towels to help them learn the importance of good practice. The childminder's consistent approach to hygiene and daily routines consolidates children's understanding and development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and child friendly home where all risks are minimised. They move independently around the home in safety, as the childminder consistently helps children learn how to keep themselves safe. She explains using words consistent with the children's level of understanding and encourages them to be aware of the needs of others. Children are sensitively reminded to take care indoors when playing with balls and not to leave toys for others to fall over.

Children make active and confident choices of toys, games and activities that meet safety standards. Equipment is organised on low shelves, in boxes and floor based, which all children can access easily to extend their independence. The childminder maintains high levels of supervision, appropriate to the children's ages and abilities, allowing them space to explore in safety and plan their own time.

The childminder demonstrates a strong regard for the children's well-being. She has comprehensive policies and procedures in place to keep children safe and reinforces good practice through play and games. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate for working with children and babies and continues to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and procedures. She has well organised systems and documentation in place to consistently record accidents and medications effectively.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle very well at the childminder's home and are soon involved in a wide range of stimulating and challenging activities. They are confident and demonstrate their independence by requesting activities, such as toy animals, cars and singing time.

Children enthusiastically make choices from easily accessible boxes of toys suitable for their ages and abilities. They are busy, motivated and absorbed in their play. Children play imaginatively, acting out roles using small world toys, running trains on the track to the seaside and building tall towers from wooden bricks.

Children establish very good relationships with the childminder singing and acting out rhymes, such as the Grand Ole Duke of York, when marching round the home. They have fun and younger children play happily alongside each other. Children demonstrate good self-esteem, as the childminder continually uses praise and encouragement for attempts and achievements. She uses numerous opportunities to extend language and progress their play, talking to them and introducing colours and shapes into everyday play and routines. The childminder introduces number when counting bricks and supports children to extend themselves, by moving furniture to enable less mobile children to move around the home confidently and extend their independence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a wide range of meaningful resources and offers stimulating activities to promote children's self-esteem. She uses resources effectively to introduce children to the wider world and help them develop a positive view of diversity. Children talk about and share home experiences, they are confident, make choices and ask questions. Children enjoy visits to toddler groups to meet friends and walks to explore their surroundings.

Children are valued and respected, they behave well and follow daily routines, as agreed with parents to meet their individual needs. The childminder recognises the abilities of all the children and supports them to try new skills and achieve their full potential. She has a clear understanding of the needs of all the children in her care and plans effectively to support their individuality. The childminder responds successfully to children's specific needs and manages her time efficiently. She works well to support children with additional needs by actively involving other professionals as needed, such as health visitors.

Children learn good behaviour and respect due to the childminder's sensitive and caring approach. She constantly talks to the children to extend their understanding and introduce them to new vocabulary. She successfully encourages children to respect and recognise the needs of others, for example, reminding them to move obstacles for less mobile children.

The childminder works well with parents to share information and develop strong relationships, ensuring a consistent approach to the care of the children. Parents respond by giving the childminder background information to help their children feel secure and settled, for example,

basic words in the children's first language. She uses daily diaries for younger children's routines and plans to continue to develop evidence to support her working practices to keep parents well informed. Children are secure and actively make themselves at home, which in turn allows them to confidently make decisions about what they want to do.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are settled, relaxed and make themselves at home in an organised and interesting environment, which allows them to be confident and initiate their own play. The childminder shares information with parents regularly and maintains all required records in a well organised manner to ensure information is up to date. A wide range of comprehensive policies support consistent and professional practice, however, she recognises the importance of keeping updated on new legislation and changes to procedures.

Flexible planning allows children to make good choices and plan their own time. The childminder effectively supports and guides them to extend their play and learning. Creative use of space provides children with a stimulating and interesting environment.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Previous recommendations regarding safety have been suitably addressed and contribute effectively to keeping children safe.

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 evidence to support good working practices
- continue to review and update policy and procedures to meet new legislation and changing practice.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk