



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	302644
Inspection date	27 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 1998. She lives with her husband and two adult children in a terrace house in Barnsley. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding, plus the first floor bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 4 children under 5 part day, and 5 children over 5 before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent-toddler group. The family have a small dog.

The childminder is a member of the local childminding network and supports children with special needs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder promotes the good health of children and takes adequate precautions to prevent the spread of infection. For example, children are taught how to wash their hands when it is appropriate to do so and to dispose of wipes and tissues properly. There are regular cleaning routines established to ensure all toys, equipment and work surfaces are clean and free from germs. Nappy changing routines are established with the careful disposal of nappies.

Children's personal details are recorded to ensure they are cared for according to parent's wishes and that they are only given approved foods. Meals are healthy and nutritious and meet individual children's dietary and religious requirements. The childminder has the ability to administer emergency first aid treatment, however, her first aid certificate has expired. Parents are aware of the exclusions for infections and inform the childminder of any communicable diseases so she can alert other parents.

Children access and enjoy a range of energetic physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They develop self confidence in their physical skills as they use a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities and equipment. All children are learning to listen to their bodies and are able to rest or be active according to their needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure environment where risk of accidental injury is minimised through good safety and security precautions. For example, doors are kept locked, all safety requirements are in place and the childminder fully supervises children at all times. 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 outdoors. For example, encouraging road safety awareness during the school collections, using appropriate restraints such as reins for the toddlers and regular fire drills.

Most children are able to ask for toys and activities from a satisfactory range of resources. They generally rely on the childminder to provide what they want to play with. She carefully monitors and supervises the children's choice of toys to ensure they are safe and appropriate for their ages and stage of development. The childminder encourages the children to tidy away at the end of a session to ensure children take responsibility for keeping themselves safe.

All required documents for keeping children safe are in place and up to date. This means children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, she keeps

children's emergency numbers in her mobile phone and has a clear understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local Area child protection committee.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

All children take part in suitable activities and are able to access toys freely and independently from the selection provided by the childminder. Children are becoming confident and are successfully building relationships with each other and with adults. For example, attending the local play groups helps them to adapt to new situations and meet other children and adults. However, some younger children would benefit from more structured activities to further develop and encourage language skills.

Children are motivated to learn and explore. Resources and equipment are organised and used well, which means they have access to exciting and stimulating activities to enhance their overall development. For example, the childminder takes time to find out what children like to do and play with both inside and outdoors. She ensures children are able to access fresh air and exercise through walks, outings and outdoor play. The Birth to three framework guides the childminder to support children's independence and confidence as they initiate their own play. She provides them with stories, pictures and visual aids to help them respond and talk about their feelings.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. For example, using books, stories, and the television to illustrate other cultures and festivals. Children learn about their community as they visit places of interest, such as play groups, play areas, parks, farms and the local countryside. However, the childminder's knowledge and understanding of equal opportunity is a little limited.

Children are valued and respected as individuals, with lots of encouragement and praise from the childminder. Their needs are met well as they follow the daily routines. Children show care and concern for others and play harmoniously together for most of the time. They share toys and equipment and behave reasonably well because they are familiar with expected levels of acceptable behaviour, which encourages them to discover boundary limits and learn about rules. Acceptable strategies in place to safely manage a wide range of children's behaviour. Children with special needs are supported and cared for by the childminder.

Parents are informed about what their child does and regular communication ensures they are fully conversant in all aspects of their child's care. Daily conversations during collection of children are a means to ensure they know what their child has been doing and where they have been. Reviews take place on a regular basis and any concerns are dealt with immediately. All relevant information is shared and any

school letters are passed onto the parents. Parents are aware of the procedure to follow should they wish to make a complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home and at ease within the well organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of all children. They are shared regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's day.

Children's safety is positively addressed to ensure they are well supported, supervised and cared for in a safe, secure environment. The childminder has appropriate procedures in place to ensure the safe management of her provision. All documentation is very well organised and stored safely to ensure confidentiality at all times. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection highlighted some recommendations relating to relevant training for childminders. The childminder has attended and completed child protection training to enable her to become more familiar with the procedure to follow should she have any concerns about a child in her care. This means she is more confident to deal with such an issue quickly and in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee to ensure children's welfare is utmost in her mind.

She has been unsuccessful in obtaining suitable training for a better understanding of equality of opportunity, however, she will continue to search this area and access some form of training in the future.

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:

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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):

- further develop knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities issues
- further develop language skills for young children
- ensure up to date first aid training is completed.

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