



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	321330
Inspection date	20 April 2005
Inspector	Carol-Anne Shaw

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 1998. She lives with her husband. They live in a semi-detached property, which is situated in a cul-de-sac in the village of Haxby. Their home is situated within walking distance of Ralph Butterfield Primary School, local shops and amenities. The whole of the ground floor of the childminders home is used for child minding purposes, mainly the conservatory. Children access the bathroom on the first floor. The small bedroom can be used for sleeping and overnight care. There is a fully enclosed back garden available for outdoor play.

The family have no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time. There are currently eleven children on roll; three are aged over eight years, most attend part time. Currently there are no children being cared for overnight.

The childminder walks to the local playgroup and school to take and collect children. She attends the local parent toddler group. The childminder takes children to visit local parks and various outings in the holidays.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, clean home which is very well organised for them. They are developing extremely well due to the effective procedures and good practice in all areas, which meet children's physical, nutritional and health needs. The childminder gives excellent support and guidance helping children gain a very good understanding of hygiene and a real desire to become increasingly independent in their own personal care.

Children explore and develop very good physical control in daily indoor and outdoor activities. The childminder's very good awareness of each child's stage of development means the youngest children are confident to try out their new skills, asking for help only when needed, and are able to be independent within a safe environment. For example, the child under two years when building the wooden train track, is delighted when he makes the pieces fit the circle after much perseverance.

Children enjoy helping themselves to easily available drinking cups and fresh fruit. For example they peel their own tangerine, put the peeling to the bin provided, wipe their own hands on accessible wipes when they are sticky. The packed lunches are stored well and meal times are organised as sociable, family occasions. The childminder readily discusses healthy food with the children, enabling them to have a very good understanding of healthy eating.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The environment is safe as risks to children have been identified and minimised by the childminder, who is vigilant in her supervision. This allows children the freedom to move about safely within the home and independently access equipment. The childminder gives high priority to keeping children safe both inside and outside the home.

Children use a wide range of good quality toys and equipment, which the childminder ensures are appropriate to children's age and stages of development. The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. Her regular communication with parents also effectively contributes to children's safety.

The childminder's appropriate awareness of child protection issues and her good attention to children's welfare, means that children are protected whilst in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children relish their time with the childminder and they are very confident in the home environment. They are achieving very well because the childminder is sound in her knowledge and understanding of how children develop. Children are very happy and the relationships are excellent at all levels.

The childminder is very sensitive towards meeting children's individual needs. The younger children are rapidly gaining in independence and their skills are progressing very effectively. The childminder skilfully adapts activities such as singing, storytelling and mark making to promote the younger children's learning and they are learning to make connections between different objects and experiences.

Children show enthusiasm when counting and matching pairs in fun ways. All children's learning is developing extremely well from participating in wide range of well organised activities which contribute to children's creativity, such as moving to music, painting, baking and construction. The childminder carefully ensures that support for older children to complete their homework is built into the routine. There are excellent opportunities provided for children to use their imagination and they are given time and space to explore and re-enact as they play. Children's spontaneous play is encouraged and supported, for example, a child enjoys using lap top to imitate the inspection as it is carried out.

Extremely close and caring relationships ensure that children are confident and are able to benefit from the very effective care and learning opportunities provided for all.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources, promoting a positive view of the wider world to increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. Children learn about their local and wider community and visit places of interest such as parks, events and outings to the seaside.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Children are developing self-assurance and they show respect to the childminder and visiting adults. They show care and concern for one another and their behaviour is good. They use good manners when helping themselves to drinks and requesting help, saying please and thank you to those that come to their aid.

The childminder has effective and worthwhile partnerships with parents and good, clear communication both ways is evident. These contribute significantly to children's well being, as children's needs are met by the childminder following a routine as discussed and agreed with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at ease and are comfortable in the well organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their play and learning. Procedures are used effectively to promote children's welfare, care and learning. These are shared regularly with parents to keep them informed about the service provided and the activities undertaken by the children. This effectively contributes to continuity in the children's care. All required documentation is well organised and available for parents to see at any time. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous inspection recommended that the childminder develop a range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Since the last inspection the childminder has made provision for children to access positive resources, covering both diversity and disability. Resources are provided to meet the children's level of understanding and the childminder is proactive in offering activities which enable children to see the wider world.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

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:

