

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	318007
Inspection date	21 November 2007
Inspector	Angela Howard
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 was registered in August 2000. She lives with her husband and three children aged 11, nine and three years in Kirk Sandall, near Doncaster. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a secure garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding four children under eight years and five children over eight years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because they are well protected from illness and infection, as they follow good hygiene procedures and are cared for in very clean and well maintained premises. They

are encouraged to learn the importance of personal hygiene through good practice and daily routines. For example, they are reminded about the importance of washing hands before meals and after using the toilet. They are well supported by the childminder to take responsibility for their own hygiene. She makes sure children can reach such things as wipes and tissues independently. This results in children actively learning about the importance of personal hygiene.

A very good range of fruit and vegetables is provided for the children on a daily basis, to ensure they have the required five portions a day. They understand the benefits of a healthy diet and thoroughly enjoy the range of nutritious snacks and meals, which are made from fresh produce. For example, children enjoy fruit for snack and at lunchtime, they enjoy such things as cheese on toast, scrambled egg or homemade soup. Comprehensive records show that children's dietary requirements and parents' wishes are adhered to. Mealtimes are treated as an opportunity to help children to enjoy their food and become independent in feeding themselves. This results in children being well nourished, as they develop a very good understanding of the importance of healthy eating.

Children are well rested and alert and so they enjoy their play. This is due to the childminder following children's individual eating and sleeping routines that have been agreed with parents. Children's rest and sleep routines are flexible therefore, children are able to choose to rest quietly or play. This ensures children thrive as their individual needs are met successfully.

Children enjoy a good range of challenging physical activities. Regular visits to parks, toddler groups, walks to the park and access to a very well equipped outdoor play area, allows children to develop their all round physical skills. They love to paint with large paint brushes and water or chalk on the floor, ride on wheeled toys and dig in the sand. The access to a wide range of physical activities, contributes to children's good health in a positive manner and ensures that they develop confidence in their physical abilities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very secure and welcoming environment, by an adult who fully understands her role in keeping children safe. Risk of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder is vigilant and uses thorough risk assessments to reduce potential hazards. This ensures children can move around safely and independently. Children are cared for in a warm, vibrant and welcoming environment. The equipment is set out in a very attractive manner, which encourages children to make choices and develop decision making skills. The space available is used extremely well to provide children with a very good range of play opportunities.

The children benefit greatly from the good range of equipment and resources used daily in the setting. However, the range of natural materials and treasure baskets is not fully explored for younger children. Children use a wide variety of good quality equipment, which is very well organised in open, low-level storage units. This allows children to make choices in a safe manner. Toys and equipment are vigilantly monitored by the childminder, to make sure that they remain safe and suitable for the children, in consideration of their age and stage of development.

Children are well protected, as the childminder has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities with regard to child protection matters. She has a clear understanding of child protection procedures and recognises the signs and symptoms of possible abuse. This ensures that the safety of children in her care is always a priority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children love coming to the childminder's home. They are confident and settled in the environment. This helps to successfully enhance children's sense of trust and self confidence. They have an extremely strong sense of belonging and are familiar with daily routines. The flexible routine allows children to pursue their own interests, so that they discover more about what they like and dislike.

The children relate very well to the childminder. They share warm and caring relationships with each other and have formed good friendships. This is due to the childminder showing that she values what each child has to offer, such as asking the children which way they want to build the train track. Children know the childminder is interested in what they do and say because she listens, asks questions and is actively involved in their play. They are learning very good social skills and they enjoy talking to adults and other children. The children also enjoy being around other children and adults. This results in them being able to build meaningful relationships.

The childminder has a good understanding of child development and uses this knowledge well. She provides a very good range of activities that have good levels of challenge. For example, the range of equipment is linked to the age, stage and individual needs and interests of children attending. Therefore, children spend their time purposefully and enjoy playing with the toys provided. Children engage in concentrated imaginative play, in which they extend their language, try out new ideas and select suitable resources as they build a train track, mould the play dough and thread the lacing cards. Children's learning is reinforced with skilful intervention by the childminder. She successfully introduces counting in to daily activities such as, 'How many carriages does the train have?' and 'Can you count how many carrots we have?'. Therefore, children are being encouraged to learn through their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are treated with equal concern and their individual needs are met extremely well. This is due to the childminder taking very good measures to get to know the children. She works in complete partnership with parents, to ensure each child's daily routine is followed successfully. Very detailed records are kept, which aids the childminder to enhance all aspects of the children's care. This inclusive approach means children's individuality is strongly valued and nurtured. This results in children feeling good about themselves, because the childminder knows them extremely well and is interested in what they say and do. All children play a full part in the setting, because the childminder values and respects their individuality. This results in children developing a high level of self confidence, a very strong belief in themselves and healthy self esteem.

The childminder ensures that resources and activities positively reflect the wider community, helping children to develop a highly positive attitude towards others. Children have equal access to all resources and are beginning to learn about the wider world, through the use of an extensive range of equipment and activities that positively addresses diversity. They enthusiastically take part in planned activities, which increases their knowledge of festivals and celebrations around the world.

Children's behaviour is excellent. Strong adult support works extremely well. The childminder rewards positive behaviour, by offering children an abundance of praise and encouragement. Children are provided with very clear explanations and are very well supported to manage their own behaviour, such as taking turns and they are learning to cooperate with their peers successfully. Therefore, children are learning right from wrong in an warm and caring environment.

Partnerships with parents and carers are extremely good, which contributes to the children's overall wellbeing. Ongoing verbal communication ensures that parents are kept up-to-date about their child's care. Children are clearly benefiting from the highly positive partnerships and are extremely settled in response to this.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

A comprehensive range of policies and procedures, which contributes effectively to promote children's health, safety and wellbeing are in place and are regularly reviewed. Children move around the premises confidently and are clearly at ease within the calm and friendly environment. Space is used well and ensures children are able to access a very good variety of play opportunities and experiences. Daily routines are clearly planned and flexibly implemented to respond to children's varying needs and interests.

The childminder is highly committed to the continual improvement and development of the service she provides. She is very enthusiastic about attending training. The childminder has recently attended a vast amount of workshops. A sample of these are: basic food and health safety; child development; child protection; practical play workshops on printing; animal magic; puppets and the seaside. Children's experiences are significantly enhanced, as the childminder uses training opportunities to provide a high standard of care for children.

The required adult to child ratios are met. This provides good levels of care and supervision to ensure children are well supported in their learning and care. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, three recommendations were made. These all related to documentation. The childminder now has appropriate written consents from parents in place. She has a procedure to follow, if parents raise a complaint and has written permission to leave an assistant in sole charge of the children. This promotes children's safety and wellbeing.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- develop further the range of natural materials used with younger children.

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