



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	319861
Inspection date	12 December 2005
Inspector	Helene Anne Terry

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 outstanding. 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 and two children aged thirteen years in a detached property in Leeds, West Yorkshire. The whole of the ground floor of the home is used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden to the rear of the property that is used for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and currently has ten children on roll between the ages of sixteen months and ten years. The children attend for a variety of sessions throughout the week and school holidays. The childminder takes and collects children from the local school and

attends a local childminding group.

She is a member to the National Childminding Association and is working towards Leeds Quality Assurance Scheme.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a very clean and well maintained environment where highly effective procedures and practices ensure that children's physical, nutritional and health needs are fully addressed. The childminder provides exceptional support and guidance to ensure that children develop a very good understanding of hygiene through their daily routine. For example, children wash their hands after toileting, before eating and after playing with the rabbit. Children are protected extremely well from cross infection through the use of very good procedures and practices, such as a comprehensive sickness policy, the use of individual face cloths, sheets and blankets. Each child has their own cup for drinks and the childminder follows good hygienic nappy changing procedures, and regularly washes baby toys. Young children display high levels of understanding towards their own personal hygiene when they help themselves to tissues to wipe their noses and dispose of the used tissue in the bin.

Children are developing very good eating habits. They have free, easy access to drinks throughout the day in their own cups, and benefit highly from well balanced nutritious snacks and meals, including lots of fruit and vegetables. Convenience foods and sweets are kept to a minimum. Children delight in helping to prepare their own meals, such as a fresh fruit salad for lunch or baking biscuits for tea. They are also beginning to understand about food that is good for them when they take part in discussions at the table during lunch, which is made into a sociable occasion. Individual dietary needs are fully considered to promote their well-being.

Children enjoy a wide range of robust physical activity, which contributes very well to their good health. They enjoy playing in the park and taking part in races and playing on the large apparatus in the garden. They dance to music and enjoy musical games in the home.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children move around safely and freely in a very secure environment both indoors and outdoors, where risks are extensively minimised because the childminder takes the very good precautions to keep children safe and secure on and off the premises. They have access to excellent facilities to promote their development and furniture and equipment are very well maintained. Children are also beginning to learn about their own personal safety, because the childminder consistently reminds them about keeping safe during activities.

Children use an extremely good range of developmentally appropriate resources that provide optimal challenges to stimulate all areas of their development. Resources are easily accessible enabling choice and promoting independence. Children freely choose activities from the clearly labelled boxes stored in the play area. Resources provided are very effectively organised in containers, drawers and on shelves. They are checked for safety, rotated and updated as regularly.

The children's welfare is fully addressed. The childminder has an excellent understanding of child protection issues in line with the Area Child Protection Committee Procedures. She regularly updates her training in this area and she holds a current first aid certificate. Children's safety is further promoted by highly comprehensive policies and procedures covering all aspects of children's well-being.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy and settled in the child friendly environment where they have very good access to an excellent range of activities, which greatly enhances their development in all areas. The childminder plans main activities to formalise learning, she however, also involves the children and their interests to ensure that they are very effectively challenged to stimulate learning in a fun way. All activities and resources provided are specific to the stages of development for the children attending. Younger children's development is further fostered by the childminder beginning to implement the Birth to Three Matters Framework. Development profiles are also maintained, which actively contribute to the children's progress. Parents are encouraged to make further comments to involve them in their child's learning.

Children are developing excellent personal and social skills. They display caring attitudes to one another and aware that others have needs; particularly older children with the toddler. They have exemplary manners owing to the childminder gently reminding them to say please and thank you when they forget. They learn to share and take turns when playing games such as 'snap'. They delight and are highly stimulated by improvised activities. For example, they enjoy making dens from the clothes horse and blankets, playing with pans and wooden spoons and rolling coloured bottles of water on the floor watching the glittery shapes inside swim around. Young children are also developing excellent mathematical skills during their play and everyday activities as they count, calculate, sort and classify.

Interaction between the childminder and the children is very warm and trusting relationships have been developed, which increases children's sense of well-being and confidence. Children receive lots of cuddles and playful interactions were observed as the childminder and children played together. The childminder uses very effective questioning to encourage the children think and respond in their own words, thus, extending learning during their play. She spends most of her time playing with the children as well as attending to their individual needs with utmost priority. A rich varied routine is followed throughout the week to significantly enhance children's well-being. They have time for rests, snacks, meals and activities inside and outside the home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual needs are given utmost priority and are very effectively met. Their welfare is promoted through a variety of means, including very good information received from parents at the gradual induction of the child. The childminder has an excellent understanding of children's individuality and responds well to their needs in respect of hunger, tiredness, likes and dislikes. Children are beginning to learn about the wider world and people's differences and similarities through an excellent range of resources and activities representing diversity in society. For example, there are dolls and play people of different ethnic origins. There is also an excellent range of books with stories covering different aspects of people's lives, including people with disabilities.

The childminder has an excellent awareness of positive behaviour management techniques to enhance children's well-being and their social development. This is clearly reflected in the children's exemplary behaviour and good manners observed. They recognise each other's needs and show consideration. She speaks to them calmly giving explanations and uses lots of appropriate praise and encouragement, thereby boosting self-esteem and confidence.

Children highly benefit from the excellent partnership developed between childminder and parents. Children are cared for according to parents' wishes which promote continuity of care and their well-being. There are outstanding systems in place to ensure information is shared on a regular basis about the child's progress and daily activities, for example, through daily chats and children's achievement and progress files. Parents are also encouraged to make comments in development files to enhance progress. They receive highly comprehensive information about the setting, including written policies and procedures and regular newsletters to inform them of significant changes. Parent questionnaires are also used as part of the childminders evaluation of her services she offers for families. All of which significantly enhances the care provided for their children.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care is significantly enhanced by the extremely good organisation of space, routines and resources. They are confident and happy in the well organised, stimulating play environment. They have independent access to the excellent range of age appropriate activities and to areas of the premises available for childminding. The children receive good levels of individual support from their childminder. They play a dynamic part in the setting and are able to organise their own play, moving resources and materials to suit their needs and ideas. Children are kept safe due to the childminder's very good awareness of vetting procedures for adults having supervised or unsupervised access to the children. The numbers of children cared for throughout the week ensures that each child is given high quality individual attention.

The childminder is a very competent, skilled practitioner. She has a wealth of

experience and training in childcare and continues to up date her knowledge to greatly enhance the service she offers. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and of her local childminding group. She is also working towards a quality assurance scheme and regularly evaluates her provision to achieve high standards.

Documentation is meticulously maintained to promote all aspects of the welfare of the children. There is a highly comprehensive range of policies and procedures in place. These underpin the setting very effectively and ensure children's well-being and safety. They are filed appropriately ensuring confidentiality and are shared with parents to promote continuity of care. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend very well.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was recommended that the childminder continue to enhance the planning for activities. Very good improvements have been made. The childminder has attended the Birth to Three Matters training and implements this into the activities she provides for the children to further enhance their development.

Complaints 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.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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:

