



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	400630
Inspection date	22 January 2007
Inspector	Christine Tipple
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 2000. She lives with her husband and two children aged nine and 11 years old. They live in a village near to the town of Scarborough. The minded children access the conservatory, lounge, kitchen, bathroom and a designated bedroom which are all on the ground floor. There is a rear enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of six children under eight years. She currently has seven children on roll. The childminder takes and collects children from the local school and pre-school. She also uses other local facilities in the area with the children.

The family has two dogs which have their own designated area. The childminder uses her car as part of her childminding service.

The childminder has an early years qualification and she is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder follows clear, efficient hygiene routines to protect and promote children's health. High standards of cleanliness are maintained to ensure that children are cared for in a warm, clean home. Children use the facilities for their personal hygiene confidently. There are paper towels and liquid anti-bacterial soap provided. The younger children use wipes and they are aware of accessing them before they have their snack. This positive approach ensures all steps are taken to minimise cross infection, including clear information on the care of children who are sick. The childminder has attended training to promote children's welfare, such as first aid and food hygiene training.

Children benefit from a variety of nutritious snacks and meals. They enjoy snacks of fruit, such as apples, bananas and kiwi fruit, and the children know that they need to eat fruit and vegetables to keep healthy. The childminder works closely with parents to provide food that appeals to the children and meets their dietary needs. The childminder ensures that a range of healthy options are provided at mealtimes. Information for parents and menus are displayed on the parents notice board. Children have access to appropriate drinks throughout the day.

The children access a variety of activities that promote their physical skills effectively. The children play outside or visit the local parks, they walk to and from school. This ensures all the children have daily opportunities to be out in the fresh air. Children are taken to other settings, such as the toddler group and other sessions that offer creative play. These provide the children with additional opportunities to access other tools and larger equipment to extend and develop their physical play and experiences.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

A well organised, safe environment ensures that children have room to move around freely and safely. Premises are made warm, welcoming and friendly to children and parents. Furniture, equipment and toys are well maintained and of very good quality which promotes children's development and welfare effectively. Children are able to easily access toys, which encourages them to make choices and develop their independence.

The childminder carries out risk assessments to identify hazards in her home. She takes effective safety measures to ensure children are safe at all times through her vigilant approach. She is fully aware of the emergency evacuation procedure and practises it regularly with all the children to raise their awareness of what to do in an emergency. Children have a growing understanding of how to keep themselves safe both indoors and outdoors. They have learnt about the 'Green Cross Code' this is reinforced with them as they walk to and from school on a daily basis. The children learn about playing safely, to tidy up and to use the resources in a safe way.

Children's welfare is promoted effectively as the childminder is fully aware of her role in safeguarding children. She has all the relevant information and is clear about the procedures to follow should she be concerned about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and very happy in the childminder's care. Warm and caring relationships are formed between the children and childminder, and the children approach her confidently and look to her for reassurance when trying out new activities. This contributes to the children's trust and helps them develop a strong sense of self.

The childminder spends her time playing with the children, listening and talking to them, whilst extending their learning. They enjoy using a wide range of interesting resources, such as puzzles, books, role play and creative materials. These provide the children with a very suitable range for their age and stage of development. Activities and play opportunities are purposeful and developmentally appropriate, resulting in children being motivated and interested. However, the childminder has not yet fully extended her knowledge in relation to the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Opportunities are provided for children to play together as a group and also for them to sit quietly. They enjoy many exciting outings to places, such as the beach and local farm. The children are able to extend their social interaction by attending parent and toddler and pre-school groups and other local facilities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder actively promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, resulting in children feeling positive about themselves. Children learn to value differences through sensitive discussions and are receptive to the childminder's positive role modelling. This is supported through the resources and additional props used with the children. The children access a good range of resources, such as books, role play equipment, skin-coloured pens, and dolls which reflect diversity. They participate in activities for various celebrations.

The childminder manages behaviour very well, adopting a range of entirely appropriate strategies to suit the individual child; this includes distraction, explanations and time out. The children are aware of the boundaries and expectations in place and are confident in their attitude and approach. Children are happy and relaxed with the childminder. The children are praised and encouraged which promotes their confidence and self-esteem very positively. They share and take turns, there are gentle reminders when needed to be kind and thoughtful which are all part of the childminder's caring and consistent approach with the children.

Positive relationships are established with parents. These are formed with trust and confidence in the quality of care their children receive. The childminder ensures that she has a good knowledge and understanding of the needs of the individual children in her care. She shares information effectively on a daily basis, and for younger children a daily diary is kept. There is a parent pack provided which has all the details in relation to the childminder's practice and

this is supported with policy statements. A notice board provides the parents with additional information on a range of topics, as well as the menu and photos taken of their children at play. Contracts of agreement with the parents are established and reviewed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children are cared for in a well organised and efficient environment, resulting in them being confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The childminder ensures the space and facilities meet the children's needs effectively. The childminder has a very good understanding of the importance of keeping her personal development ongoing. She has attended a range of relevant training to develop her understanding of how children learn and how to promote their welfare.

All the required documentation for the safe management of the childminding service is well organised and available. The required ratios are maintained, resulting in children receiving good support and their needs being met effectively. Records, policies and procedures are all in place and well maintained. All records and written information is shared regularly with parents to keep them fully informed of their child's care and the childminding service. This is effective in contributing to the children's 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 the childminder agreed to provide details for parents of the procedure to be followed in relation to a complaint. The childminder has clear written details in place for parents on the investigation of complaints and outcomes, which includes contact details of the regulator.

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 can be seen on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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 knowledge in relation to the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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