

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	503505
Inspection date	21 September 2007
Inspector	Yvonne Victoria Facey
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 2001. She is able to care for a maximum of six children and is presently caring for five children. She lives with her two daughters, aged 17 and 12 years.

The family home is a semi-detached house which is situated in the Wisewood area of Sheffield, within reach of local schools and other amenities. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and one of the bedrooms, the toilet and bathroom are on the ground floor. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder has achieved a National Vocational Qualification level 3 in Childcare and Education. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Children are well protected from the risks of infection and

cross-contamination. For example, children use sensible hygiene practices, such as hand washing, as part of their daily routine. Children are appropriately taken care of if they have an accident or become ill because the childminder is trained in administering first aid. She has appropriate permissions and records regarding the administration of medication to children and keeps records of all accidents. These are signed by the parents. The childminder has clear policies about children who are sick or have infectious diseases.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure that children's dietary needs are met. For example, although most parents generally provide the food for their children, the childminder will provide a range of nutritious meals to encourage children to eat a healthy diet. Children choose from a variety of fruits at snack time and have access to regular drinks throughout the day. This helps to ensure that a healthy lifestyle is promoted.

Children enjoy a suitable range of activities which contribute to their good health. A variety of play equipment in the garden, regular walks and trips to the park provide good opportunities for healthy, physical development and play. Children's emotional well-being is fostered by the warm relationship they have with the childminder. They, therefore, feel confident to make choices and demonstrate their personal preferences.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment where risks are identified and minimised and they are always within sight or hearing of the childminder. This means children are able to move around safely and independently. The childminder gives high priority to maintaining children's safety outside the home and helping them understand how to keep themselves safe. For example, they hold hands on walks and observe the Green Cross Code. Children are well protected from the risks of fire because appropriate measures are in place, such as smoke detectors are regularly checked and an emergency escape plan is discussed with the children. As a result, children are able to move about safely and freely.

Children freely select a wide range of well maintained toys and activities that are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. All the required equipment, procedures and documents are in place to ensure the children's welfare and safety is safeguarded and promoted. Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's sound understanding of her responsibilities within child protection procedures, although she is not yet fully familiar with the new procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and relaxed in the childminder's comfortable home. Children initiate much of their play as resources are easily accessible; this promotes their awareness of positive choices and increases their confidence. They receive good levels of attention, support and appropriate challenge which promote their learning through play.

Good communication skills are developed as children interact on a one-to-one basis with the childminder who has a warm relationship with them. Young children start to make connections between different objects and experiences through a range of stimulating toys and a treasure basket containing items made of natural materials. All children develop their skills and understanding by using the good range of toys and activities that stimulate their imaginative

and creative skills, such as painting, construction, baking and crafts. The childminder encourages children to take notice of, and care for, the natural environment, through exploring during nature walks and visits to the park, and having contact with the animals on visits to a farm.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of children's individual needs and, therefore, provides an environment where they are stimulated whilst having fun. Children have a sense of belonging as they help display welcome back photos of all the minded children on roll so children can familiarise themselves in their environment after the summer holidays. Children behave very well. They learn to care for and respect each other, supported by the childminder's skilful use of praise and encouragement which also develops children's self-esteem. The childminder has not cared for minded children with learning difficulties or disabilities but demonstrates through discussion a positive attitude to caring for children with such needs.

Children develop their understanding of the wider world through access to a range of activities, books and toys that promote positive images of diversity. The childminder has a good awareness of dealing professionally with parents to ensure that children receive a quality service. For example, all parents receive a comprehensive 'welcome pack' which introduces them to the services that the childminder provides. Children are cared for according to parents' wishes. Parents are aware of the events and the activities their children are involved in through both verbal and written information sharing. Parents have an opportunity to comment on the care their children receive as the childminder provides them with questionnaires, which she uses to find out if the parents and children are happy with her care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children receive good levels of adult support which makes them feel safe and secure. The home is organised effectively, both indoors and outdoors, to maximise children's range of play whilst keeping them safe and healthy. The childminder is enthusiastic and committed to improving her knowledge and skills. The childminder is well organised and keeps all necessary contracts and permission forms in a safe and accessible file. Parents are well informed of the way the childminder runs her service because they receive a copy of her policies and procedures.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder was asked to extend her resources to reflect diversity, install a smoke alarm and ensure parents are aware of the complaints policy. The childminder has successfully addressed these issues which contribute to children's well-being and safety.

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):

- revise the approach to child protection and bring in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the 'National standards for under 8s day care and childminding Addendum', October 2005.

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