

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 312755
Inspection date 19 June 2007
Inspector Sandra Davies

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 December 1991. She lives with her husband and two adult children. They live in an established residential area of Marske, close to local amenities, shops and schools. The whole of the ground floor is used for minding. There is a lounge/diner and conservatory available. The toilet is located at first floor level. There is an enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding seven children under eight years on a part-time and full-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. Children are taken to playgroup and the library.

The childminder is a member of the Marske Childminders Group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows good health and hygiene procedures. For example, through regular hand washing and cleaning of surfaces. High standards of cleanliness are maintained in childminding areas and equipment and toys are cleaned regularly. Children are encouraged to learn about personal hygiene through the daily routine, such as the childminder ensuring hands are washed as appropriate and by setting a good example. Sound procedures are in place for dealing with medication and accidents. However, not all minor accidents are recorded. A suitable first aid box is available and the childminder holds a paediatric first aid certificate. Comprehensive procedures are in place to promote children's overall health, including an exclusion policy for children who are ill or infectious.

Children benefit from being offered varied, nutritious food. The childminder works well with parents to provide food which is good for the children and meets their dietary needs. They enjoy ingredients that promote their healthy growth and development, including salad, and fruit is always available. Drinks are also made readily available, water being offered. Mealtimes are a relaxed, enjoyable, social occasion where children sit together with the childminder.

There are good opportunities for outdoor play and fresh air. Children regularly engage in physical activities. For example, they do exercises indoors and access swings and slides at the park. They have lots of fresh air on the regular trips to and from school. Children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs and individual routines and children that are tired are made comfortable.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised, safe and secure setting. The childminder is vigilant. For example, when checking a child who sleeps outdoors. Good organisation of space and regular checks ensure that children have room to move around freely and safely. The outdoor play area is fully enclosed and the grassed area provides a suitable play surface for the children.

The environment is welcoming and child orientated, with a varied range of stimulating toys and activities which contribute to their overall well-being. Furniture, equipment and toys provided are of a high quality and the childminder ensures they are safe and suitable for children's use through regular checking routines. The good range of play equipment provided promotes children's development. Toys and resources are rotated and made available so that children can reach them easily, make choices and develop their independence.

Positive steps are taken to promote safety within the setting and when on outings and proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents. Risk assessments have been carried out and are ongoing. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they take part in fire drills and learn to cross the road safely. Appropriate consents are obtained from parents and who can collect the child is recorded.

Children are well protected because the childminder understands her role in relation to child protection and would be able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's care. Routines have been established which promote children's sense of security and develop their confidence. Children have a good relationship with the childminder and this increases children's sense of well-being.

Children enjoy using a wide range of resources, for example, lots of books, craft materials and construction. They take part in play and learning, appropriately supported by the childminder. Activities and play opportunities are purposeful and developmentally appropriate, resulting in children being motivated and interested.

Children have some opportunities to learn about their community and the wider world through trips to the park, library and playgroups. There are some multicultural resources available and children have taken part in suitable activities. For example, making masks for the Chinese New Year.

The childminder is further developing her knowledge and understanding of caring for younger children and ensures that activities meet their individual needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, resulting in all children feeling valued and their needs being met. Comprehensive information is sought and recorded to ensure that individual care is given. Children are beginning to access a range of resources which increase their awareness of diversity.

Children generally behave well. They are settled and happy and make positive relationships with the childminder. Children are encouraged to learn to play harmoniously together and develop respect for each other. Parents are made aware of behaviour management methods in the written leaflet provided.

Trusting partnerships have been established with parents, to help promote children's well-being, development and progress. Parents are kept informed of their child's progress through regular discussion with the childminder. Information is shared on a daily basis. Parents are given written information about the provision before their child starts and are able to access the policies, procedures and previous inspection report. There is a complaints procedure in place. However, this does not give the relevant address and telephone number of the regulator.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

All necessary documentation is up to date and is well organised. However, the registration certificate is not prominently displayed.

The childminder demonstrates her commitment to providing good quality care for children. For example, she is working towards completing an National Vocational Qualification Level 3 in childcare. There are comprehensive policies and procedures in place. Children's space is organised in an effective manner and resources meet the children's requirements. Individual needs are well met through the childminder's attention to each child's requirements.

Children's care is fully promoted through the childminder's approach with regard to confidentiality and children benefit through the childminder's good relationship with parents. Good quality information is provided and the childminder is committed to providing a good service.

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 was asked to obtain written consent when children are to be collected by another adult. Who can collect children is recorded on the contracts. This enhances the safety of the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 1 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take 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):

- ensure a record is maintained and signed by the parent, of any accidents
- develop the complaints procedure to include the relevant address and telephone number of Ofsted
- display the registration certificate where it is easily visible to parents.

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