



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY229696
Inspection date	15 August 2005
Inspector	Hilary Mary Mckenning
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 November 2002. She lives with her husband and their two children, in a house in Darton near Barnsley. Children have access to the lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory and bathroom on the ground floor. There is direct access from the conservatory to an outdoor play area.

The childminder is currently caring for four children. She takes and collects children from school and is involved in local playgroup and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and comfortable environment where good standards of hygiene are maintained. Their health needs are met effectively as the childminder makes sure she is well informed and complies with any specific requirements for their care. She acts in the best interest of the children when they are ill and follows clear procedures to protect others from illness and infection. She ensures that first aid training is up to date to help her to deal appropriately with any accidents or emergencies.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Each day there are outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies and improve children's physical skills. They visit local parks, children's groups and have access to a fully enclosed garden where they can play with outdoor equipment, such as sit and ride toys, balls and play garden games. Younger children try out new skills as they reach for toys and learn to climb.

Children's meals are healthy and nutritionally balanced to meet their individual, dietary needs and requirements essential for their well-being, healthy growth and development. Clear records indicate children's individual dietary requirements and preferences ensuring they are well catered for in accordance with parent's wishes. The childminder provides regular drinks for children and good arrangements are in place for those who cannot ask. Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet as mealtimes are used to promote social interaction and develop children's growing independence.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to play safely in a secure environment where they have freedom to explore and practise new skills. The childminder takes positive steps to promote children's safety and views this as fundamental to their welfare. She supervises children carefully while recognising children's developing abilities allowing them the opportunity to explore. She successfully achieves a good balance between freedom and safe limits.

Children have the freedom to make choices and access a wide range of good quality toys and equipment within a safe environment. The furniture and equipment is well maintained and meets the varying needs of the children.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, the childminder has a secure understanding of child protection procedures in line with local guidance.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem in the warm and welcoming setting. This is because the childminder knows them well, enjoys their company and involves them in ongoing conversation. Younger children settle quickly because the childminder finds out about their normal routines and tries to follow as closely as possible. She gives cuddles and reassurance, maintaining a warm, friendly dialogue with them which helps children to feel secure and to develop language skills.

Children enjoy a variety of play experiences. They show a keen interest in craft activities, concentrating for lengthy periods on making new designs and following patterns as they play with beads and draw pictures. The childminder also involves them in preparing creative activities for other minded children to enjoy at a weekly craft session she plans for the local childminder group. They are able to play outside or to select activities for themselves indoors, where they have easy access to a range of play materials.

Children build strong relationships with each other and with the childminder. Older children show interest and concern for the younger ones. They recognise that they may need more support and develop an understanding that younger children may not yet be able to manage a particular skill.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's clear understanding of equal opportunities. The children develop positive attitudes towards one another and are encouraged to share and take turns. Children access resources that reflect diversity, although the range is somewhat limited. They recognise the need to accept and listen to others opinions. They are polite and are beginning to show consideration for others, for example, helping each other to put toys and activities away.

Children behave well because the childminder has a calm and relaxed approach to behaviour management. Children are encouraged to use their manners, saying please and thank you. The childminder positively acknowledges and gives praise to children for their efforts and recognise when they are trying to be helpful, making them feel valued and giving them a sense of belonging.

Parents receive detailed information about the setting, the daily routines and their children's activities, developing good links with home and enabling parents to share experiences with their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are secure and at ease within the environment. The space and resources are organised well to enable them to move around freely and gain independence with their daily routines.

The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of child development and a high regard for the well-being of children. She provides a good level of care and supervision to ensure children are well supported.

All the required documentation is in place, although some lack the necessary detail. Policies and procedures support the smooth running of the service and parents receive regular useful information. 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, several issues raised. The childminder was asked to develop a range of multi-cultural resources and to develop a child protection policy.

The childminder has addressed these issues. She has attended relevant training to secure her understanding of child protection issues in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board. She has also developed a comprehensive policy in place that is appropriately maintained. Children now have access to some multi-cultural resources although this still needs to be developed further.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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.

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):

- further develop resources that reflect diversity
- ensure all required information is consistently recorded in order to maintain children's safety.

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