



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	303595
Inspection date	04 October 2006
Inspector	Stephanie Joy Bennett
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 satisfactory. 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 1995. She lives with her husband in the area of Illingworth, close to Halifax. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have one dog.

A maximum of six children may attend at any one time. There are five children on roll.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group and takes children to the local library and park. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children develop good hygiene habits through daily routines, where they know to wash their hands before meals and after playing outdoors. They have good access to a low sink in the downstairs toilet and use of liquid soap and a hand towel, which increases their independence. The spread of infection is appropriately prevented as children play in a clean environment. Policies relating to illness are verbally shared with parents, so they understand the measures required to prevent the spread of infection.

Children are developing healthy lifestyles as they eat reasonably healthy meals, such as fruit, yoghurts, pasta and vegetables, which meet their dietary needs. They develop good physical skills, because they access a spacious garden each day, where they can run, climb on climbing frames and use push-along cars and bikes to move around. Children enjoy activities, such as play dough, clay, jigsaws and shape sorters which develops hand-eye coordination. An outdoor sandpit provides opportunities for digging and building, to further develop their fine physical skills. Older children who attend after school enjoy outdoor activities, such as football and skipping which promotes positive attitudes to exercise.

The childminder ensures that the children's well-being is appropriately regarded in the event of an accident. She holds a valid first aid certificate and keeps records in place, to contact parents in an emergency or seek emergency treatment or medical advice.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are safe and secure, because hazards in the home are effectively minimised and children play in an enclosed garden. They are able to access resources easily, although some equipment is not checked thoroughly enough to ensure that it is clean or not broken, which compromises children's health and safety.

Children begin to develop an awareness of keeping themselves safe, as they tidy up after themselves to prevent accidents and learn about road safety. Fire drills are practised regularly so children understand what to do in the event of an emergency. Records to manage the children's daily welfare, such as accidents, registers and safe collection procedures are appropriately maintained. They enjoy regular outings safely because the childminder takes proper precautions, such as taking emergency contact numbers and a first aid box out with her.

Children are adequately protected from harm, as the childminder has sufficient knowledge of child protection. A policy and accidents which have not occurred on the premises are recorded and signed by parents. This means they have a clear understanding of the childminder's duty to put the children's needs first. However, there is no information for the childminder to refer to, relating to the new Local Safeguarding Children Board, should she have any concerns or require contact numbers to protect the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children come into a secure environment where they settle well, due the childminder's relaxed and friendly approach. She knows them well and meets their needs effectively with regards to their individual daily routines.

Children have a sufficient range of toys and activities which promote all areas of play and development. For example, they access small world play, books, shape sorters and jigsaws easily. Children may request to use a computer, which supports their learning and development. They enjoy looking at books and singing together, which helps them to find a voice and become skilful communicators.

Children can be creative as they draw, paint, explore play dough or clay and experiment with musical instruments. They have good opportunities to be imaginative, as they play at first aid or in the play house with dolls, a kitchen and dressing up clothes. Children learn about shape, colour and number through activities, such as educational computer games and books. Older children who attend after school are able to watch television, read, or do homework. They enjoy role play and art and craft to increase their creativity.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in an environment which is homely, warm and welcoming, where their own pictures are displayed in the conservatory, which promotes a sense of belonging and value. Children develop an awareness of our diverse society, through resources, such as books, dressing up and small world play. However, there are few activities planned to promote their awareness of different cultural festivals and religions.

Children are becoming independent, as they help to tidy up, wash their own hands and help themselves to drinks throughout the day. They behave well because the childminder gives lots of positive praise and encourages them to share, take turns and be polite. Children take time out and are spoken to calmly about unacceptable behaviour, so they begin to develop respect for each other.

The childminder has developed a satisfactory relationship with parents. Appropriate information and records are shared, in order to manage the well-being of the children and meet their individual needs. The complaints procedure is up to date and displayed. A notice board is available that offers relevant information, such as certificates of registration and the Ofsted poster for parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures that ratios are appropriately maintained to manage the daily safety and welfare of the children effectively. A sound awareness of the policies and procedures required in order to keep children safe is developed and all documentation is appropriately

maintained. However, there are no reference documents relating to child protection for the childminder to refer to if she has a concern. The childminder has made appropriate arrangements to access further training to continue to improve her practice and the outcomes for children.

Space and resources are appropriately organised to meet children's needs, as they freely move through rooms to access a varied range of activities, indoors and out. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to obtain a first aid certificate and maintain conditions of registration relating to reducing the number of children cared for, to keep children safe. She was required to ensure that a number of records, such as children's details, registers, accident, medication, child protection and complaints procedures are maintained and held on the premises. The childminder was also asked to ensure that she accessed training on the 'Birth to three matters' framework and behaviour management in order to improve outcomes for young children and manage behaviour more effectively. She was also asked to ensure that children practised emergency evacuation procedures regularly.

All policies and procedures and records are now maintained and held on the premises to ensure that the daily safety and well-being of the children is managed. The childminder has succeeded in obtaining a valid first aid certificate so children are handled appropriately in the event of an accident. Behaviour management and the 'Birth to three matters' training has not yet been accessed. However, the outcomes for children have still significantly improved because the childminder has received additional support from the local authority and has joined a local childminder group based at a children's centre. She has reduced the amount of children cared for, to within her registration requirements, which ensures that children are cared for safely in a calm atmosphere and their behaviour is handled appropriately. As a result, children are polite and develop respect for each other. The childminder is also booked to attend the 'Birth to three matters' framework and behaviour management training early next year.

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 see on request. The complaints record may also 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 satisfactory. 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):

- make sure that equipment is kept clean and well maintained to manage the daily health and safety of the children
- obtain up to date information on child protection which relates to the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- provide a range of activities which further develop children's awareness of their own cultures and those of others.

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