



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	303615
Inspection date	28 June 2006
Inspector	Helene Anne Terry
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 has been registered since 1993. She lives with her husband and three adult children in a detached property in Halifax, West Yorkshire. Areas of the home used for the children include the conservatory, dining kitchen and lounge. There is an enclosed section of the garden that is used for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She occasionally works with an assistant. At present, she has four children on roll between the ages of one and three years, most of whom attend for various sessions throughout the week. The family have a dog.

The childminder 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 clean environment where their health and hygiene needs are fostered very well. For example, there are good nappy changing procedures in place and surfaces are appropriately wiped. The children learn about good hygiene practices and enjoy washing their hands, making sure that they have lots of 'soapy suds'. They brush their teeth and access the sink with a step to create independence. The routines and facilities promote positive hygiene practices that are effective in preventing cross infection. There is clear guidance on the care of sick children and information on exclusion periods for infections.

Children's dietary needs are met very well. The childminder has a good understanding of nutritional needs of children to offer them a good balanced diet. They enjoy a full cooked meal at lunch time, including lots of fruit and vegetables, and drinks are readily accessible throughout the day in their cups. Snack choices are always healthy, promoting health and growth.

Children have a range of opportunities to practise their physical skills both inside and outside the home. They use a range of equipment that enables them to use their bodies effectively. For example, they climb on the slide, use push-alongs and walkers to help establish walking and peddle bikes. They also enjoy long walks out in the local environment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures that children are cared for in a setting that enables them to feel secure and comfortable within their surroundings. Good steps are taken to minimise risks and all safety equipment is in place to protect children. For example, a play area is now safely fenced in for outdoor play and the fire drill is in picture form to enable the children to clearly understand the procedures. Children also learn about their own personal safety; they are gently reminded to walk in the home and to sit properly on chairs. They follow safe procedures for outings and know that they have to walk on the inside, next to the childminder, away from the road.

There is a suitable range of resources and equipment available for the children to foster most areas of their development. They freely select from the range made available and ask for other items they can not easily access. Children confidently ask for jigsaws and dolls and their wishes are complied with.

The childminder has relevant information and procedures on child protection, which promote an appropriate approach to children's welfare and safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are very happy and secure in their surroundings, freely moving around to access equipment. They relate to the childminder warmly and happily approach her for support. They

receive lots of cuddles and encouragement to explore their environment and resources. The children are developing their language skills well owing to the childminder's constant interaction with the children. They play with words as they sing songs and rhymes, and toddlers find their eyes, nose and mouth as they begin to understand simple questions. The childminder is fully involved in their play and endeavours to extend learning by asking questions and acknowledging their achievements. Although she has a satisfactory awareness of children's development, she has not fully extended her activities to promote and plan for young children's progress. For example, by using the Birth to three matters framework.

An interesting varied routine is followed to enrich children's well-being. They have time for rests, meals and activities indoors and outdoors. Children enjoy visits to the play gym and go for walks to enhance their social and physical skills as they try out new experiences. The childminder plans the day so that she can give the older children individual attention whilst the younger ones sleep. This gives them opportunities to play with resources not suitable for toddlers, such as small pieces of equipment. Older children enjoy this time playing with the jigsaws and doing creative activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are recognised and valued. Information is received from parents at the gradual induction about the child's routine and special requirements. There is an acceptable approach to promoting diversity in society through the use of multicultural dolls and books that children access freely. However, there are no resources that positively reflect disability in society. Although, the childminder has no experience in caring for children with special needs she has a good awareness of the fact that some children may need special help to ensure that they reach their full potential.

Children's behaviour is managed well. They are beginning to understand the need to share and take turns as they play with the prams and dolls. They receive appropriate guidance from the childminder to help them understand the difference between right and wrong through a variety of means appropriate to their age and stage of development, such as distraction, explanations and praise and encouragement.

Parents are kept well informed about the setting and their children and relationships are strong. Parents highly value the care their children receive as documented through their written statements that they give the childminder. They share information about the children through daily chats, which promotes the two way process in caring for children, promoting their well-being. The childminder takes positive steps to ensure that parents are kept well informed about all relevant procedures, including complaints.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises space and resources to successfully meet needs of the children. Consequently children settle well and feel at home. The layout of the play areas ensures easy

supervision of children resting whilst others play. She takes care to ensure that all children have equal attention and that domestic duties, such as preparation of food, does not interfere with her time with the children. Children are kept safe due to the childminder's good awareness of vetting procedures for adults having supervised or unsupervised access to the children. The childminder has a good deal of experience in caring for children, having been a childminder for many years. She updates her knowledge as required and holds a current first aid certificate to enhance children's well-being. All required documentation is in place to protect children and is stored confidentially. These include written permissions from parents and accident and medication records. 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 it was recommended that the outdoor area was made safe for children. Good improvements have been made. There is now a secure outdoor play area available for children to enhance their safety and development.

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 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):

- consider the use of the Birth to three matters framework to further the provision of play activities for young children
- obtain resources that positively reflect disability in society.

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