



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	303530
Inspection date	19 September 2006
Inspector	Annette Stanger
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 1988. She lives with her husband who is also a registered childminder, in Halifax. The living room, dining room and playroom are all used for childminding and bathroom facilities are located upstairs.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 12 children when working with her husband and six children whilst working alone. Children attend on both a part time and full time basis.

The family has two dogs, cats and rabbits. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder suitably addresses and supports most aspects of children's health. Children's awareness of healthy practices is encouraged through daily routines and general discussion, and procedures in place for nappy changing prevent the spread of infection. For example, the changing mat is disinfected between each nappy change and nappies are disposed of hygienically. The arrangements for first aid and administering medication meet requirements, although, written consent to seek emergency medical attention is not in place for some of the children.

Children enjoy physical activities both indoors and out, contributing to their physical development and encouraging them to be physically active. For example, regular use of local parks allows children the opportunity to play on fixed equipment, run around and play ball games in large open space. As well as providing opportunities for active play children are able to rest according to their individual needs and routines.

Children benefit from a suitably healthy diet and they are provided with regular drinks throughout the day. Meals are made from fresh ingredients and are nutritionally balanced to meet dietary needs and requirements, essential for their well-being, healthy growth and development. Mealtimes are a social time where the children all sit together and the childminder allows them to eat at their own pace. Information on children's dietary needs and any allergies are recorded in the appropriate way in order to protect children and meet their individual requirements. The childminder ensures she is up to date with current food hygiene practices and food handling. She is inspected by Environmental Health annually, acting on any advice given, and ensures she has a current, maintained 'Basic food hygiene' certificate which she updates on a three yearly basis.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a reasonably safe environment where the childminder identifies and minimises most risks appropriately. The space is organised suitably to allow children to freely explore and independently select resources which interest them. They have safe access to toys and resources and these are suitable for their age and stage of development. The childminder checks these regularly to ensure there are no broken parts that may pose a danger to children.

Appropriate steps are taken to ensure children are kept safe and proper arrangements are in place for outings. The childminder has written consent to transport children in a vehicle and has recently sought further information on the new regulations governing the use of child car seats. In response, new booster seats have been purchased to meet with these requirements. Measures are in place to ensure children cannot leave the premises unsupervised and safety gates restrict access to certain rooms, which means that children are under the direct supervision of the childminder.

The childminder is aware of her responsibility towards child protection, is able to put procedures into practice and has relevant contact numbers for reporting any concerns. This means she can act quickly and appropriately to safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are content and settled in the childminder's care. They participate in a balanced range of free play opportunities that are suitable in supporting their development and overall learning. They freely select from a variety of age appropriate resources and explore these at their own pace. For example, the children enjoy playing with interactive toys, such as the musical activity mat, mobile phone and the dragon, where they roll balls and watch where they come out. The childminder also takes children on outings to local places of interest, for example, the Jungle Experience where children look for butterflies and the York Maze where they look for clues as part of the adventure.

Children benefit from individual routines that are consistent with experiences at home, resulting in them being secure and content in their surroundings. The childminder ensures there is time for active play and time to relax, accommodating their needs appropriately. Time is spent relaxing on the sofa looking through books with the childminder, which encourages an early appreciation of books.

The childminder has not yet attended training in 'Birth to three matters' but has made arrangements to do so to further enrich children's experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit as the childminder follows individual routines in accordance with parents' wishes. This ensures their differing needs are met and contributes to their well-being and development. Children have access to an adequate range of resources that reflect diversity and acknowledge cultural differences. These include a selection of books, dolls and videos.

The childminder manages children's behaviour in a way that is developmentally appropriate. Children are encouraged to share and play together nicely. Distraction techniques are used to manage younger children's behaviour and this is successful in redirecting any unwanted behaviour. Good behaviour is also encouraged, for example, the childminder encourages good manners at breakfast time.

Children are confident and settle well in the childminder's care, because she takes heed of the information provided by parents. Essential information is recorded on individual child detail forms and this enables appropriate care to be given in line with parents' wishes. Daily verbal exchanges ensure parents receive general information regarding their child's care and development and examples of children's achievements are shared to keep parents informed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder uses her time appropriately to ensure that she meets the individual needs of the children in her care, such as time to eat, rest and play. Required adult to child ratios are met which ensures children are appropriately supervised and supported.

The space is organised to promote children's independence and allow free movement and easy access to age appropriate resources.

Most of the documentation is in place to promote the care and welfare of children. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection the childminder was asked to obtain prior written permission from parents before administering medication to children. The childminder has since improved the existing system for obtaining this consent by revising the documentation to show clearly that this has been requested. This contributes to children's health 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 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):

- ensure written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is obtained and is in place for all children
- continue to develop the range of opportunities and experiences for children under three, for example, by using the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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