



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	303542
<b>Inspection date</b>	29 November 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Cathleen Howarth

<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 registered in 1998. She lives with her husband and three children aged eight, 18 and 20 in Halifax. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding, and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time, and is currently minding eight children on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends local parent/toddler and playgroups.

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 fully protected from infection and are well taken care of if they have an accident or become ill. Relevant policies and procedures are in place. Medication and accident records are countersigned by parents to promote children's continuing care.

Children know to take their shoes off in the house. The childminder maintains high standards of hygiene and cleanliness in areas used by children, to promote their good health. Children are beginning to understand simple health and hygiene practices. They know to wash their hands before snack, and after using the toilet. The childminder purchases glitter soap which appeals to young children and encourages them to use it. She implements effective procedures for nappy changing and toilet training, and ensures the personal care needs of the very young are met.

Children enjoy and participate in regular physical activity, both indoors and outdoors. They are used to walking up the hill in all weathers as transport is not provided. Physical activity is an integral part of the provision. The garden is clearly designed to support children's overall physical development. Older children play on the large trampoline with a safety net, and younger children have a designated area at the bottom of the garden, with various toys and equipment. These measures are in place to encourage children to develop stamina, agility, muscle tone and coordination. Children rest and sleep according to their individual needs.

Children are learning the importance of eating healthily. Fresh fruit and vegetables are served daily to successfully meet their daily nutritional requirements.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children understand and adhere to boundaries and limits. They know not to play on the stairs and climb on furniture, in order to keep safe. They have ample choice in where they go. The childminder has sound understanding of the need for a balance between freedom and safe limits. She effectively risk assesses her home before children arrive.

Children play with quality resources and equipment that are of good design and condition. The childminder checks them regularly for repair and replacement. Children are learning to keep themselves and others safe, and to avoid accidental injury when they help the childminder to tidy up.

Children are kept safe on outings when they wear wrist straps and hold onto the childminder's hand. The childminder continually reinforces road safety.

Children are learning about emergency evacuation procedures to encourage them to take responsibility for themselves. All fire safety precautions are in place. The current public liability insurance certificate is available for parents to view.

Children are fully safeguarded because the childminder understands her role in child protection. She knows the procedure to follow should a concern arise.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children have developed a real sense of belonging. The childminder attractively sets out toys and equipment to welcome them to her home. She purposefully keeps their artwork to show parents what they have achieved, and to effectively promote children's self-esteem. All the resources are regularly rotated, and successfully support children's overall development.

Children are compatible. They are developing meaningful social relationships when they play with familiar friends at toddler group, and happily mix with other children at the setting. They continually build on their natural curiosity as learners, developing their language. For example, they play pirates on the floor using quality resources, like the pirate ship. They dress up as pirates imaginatively using props, and are enthralled listening to pirate stories. They find their resources fun and interesting. This enables them to remain focused and engaged in their play. There is a good balance of child-initiated and adult-led activities. The childminder plans and evaluates activities to suit the ages, stages and interests of children attending.

Children have ample opportunity to develop mathematical thinking. They confidently use various finger puppets which they have made, in order to help them with simple calculations. They persist for some time and complete activity sheets, to effectively reinforce numbers, colours, shapes and letters. They have developed good levels of confidence by engaging in stimulating activities, and thread tubes of pasta to make necklaces. Children use their imagination fully, and have made a colourful giant ladybird and bee out of touchy, feely fabric. They show great interest in what they have achieved. They have made calendars to take home. They painted their hands different colours to make hand prints, and used shapes and glitter to individualise their art work. They have purposefully made an angel for the Christmas tree out of a paper plate.

Children consistently use their initiative during craft sessions when they make giant footballs, and positively respond to challenge. For example, they concentrate and adeptly use stencils to make ski pictures. This successfully develops children's hand and eye coordination.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern, and are fully included and involved. They are developing a respectful understanding of human differences in the wider community, through well thought through activities and resources. There are robust systems in place to provide for children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Children behave well. The childminder uses age appropriate strategies, such as distraction and explanation, to effectively manage a range of children's differing behaviour. Children are learning to share, take turns and be kind during their play. Their good behaviour is actively

encouraged through positive role modelling, meaningful praise and by valuing polite behaviour. These measures successfully develop children's self-esteem and respect for others.

Children are making good progress as seen through their records of achievement, which are available for parents to view. Parents are unclear how to raise concerns through the complaints procedure, as the regulator's contact details are incorrect. To some extent this hinders partnership with parents. However, children are looked after according to parents' wishes, as written parental consent is obtained for various childcare practices.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a very clear sense of purpose, and a commitment to continual improvement. She regularly attends in-service training to keep up to date with childcare practice. She has developed a good working knowledge of the National Standards, and has interpreted them well in the best interests of children.

The organisation of space is effective. There are clearly defined areas for different activities, which are professionally supported. Daily and weekly routines are established. As a result children feel secure in a predictable environment. This is evident in the positive outcomes for children. Most of the required documentation is in place to promote children's care, welfare and learning. The childminder respects confidentiality and shares relevant information with parents. 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 three actions were raised to improve documentation, safety, and to ensure the childminder keeps Ofsted informed of changes. The childminder has fitted a solid wooden door with a bolt to prevent children from getting behind the bar. This has enhanced children's safety at the setting. Children's records are maintained to support their care. The childminder fully understands it is her responsibility to keep Ofsted informed of changes, in order to comply with registration requirements.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since April 2004 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 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):

- update the existing complaints procedure and make all parents aware.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)