



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY229349
Inspection date	04 December 2006
Inspector	Dawn Bonica Brown

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 2002. She occasionally works with an assistant and lives with her husband, a son aged six years, and an adult son, in Cottingley, Bradford. The whole of the 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 when working alone and for a maximum of seven children when working with an assistant. She is currently minding four children, three of whom are aged under five years and one is over eight years. There were no minded children present during the inspection. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how to promote children's awareness of healthy hygiene practice. She talks about providing a good example and appropriate supervision to help them become independent. She reminds them to wash their hands at appropriate times. She explains how she helps them to remain healthy by following good routines that help to prevent the spread of infection. For example, the use of disposable gloves and the hygienic disposal of nappies helps to prevent cross infection. Children receive further protection through the use of individual towels for hands and for faces.

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of how children's good health is promoted. She has good systems in place to gather information from parents regarding medical needs, dietary requirements and allergies, which she uses effectively. She describes how her policies help to protect children. For example, children who are contagious do not attend. This helps to prevent the spread of contagious ailments and acts in the best interest of all those being cared for. They are protected further because the childminder holds a relevant and current first aid certificate. This means that she has the appropriate knowledge to administer first aid promptly in the event of an accident.

From discussion and menu samples, the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of healthy eating, including the need to have drinking water accessible at all times. She describes how she facilitates good access to a range of drinks, and for children to help themselves to water through the use of a water dispenser. The menu samples are varied and well balanced and include hot cooked meals, such as fish and vegetables, shepherd's pie, soup with homemade bread and a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables. Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how to care for children with allergies and food intolerances, such as nut allergy and milk intolerance. She describes how she communicates with parents to ensure that all children, including those who have religious dietary needs, receive the correct diet.

The childminder talks about encouraging a positive attitude to mealtimes through child-centred methods that encourage children to try new food. She describes how children enjoy meals as a social occasion and participate in cooking activities which are made suitable for children of all ages. The impact of this on the children is evidenced through samples of individual recipe books developed by the children, which include their favourite meals.

Through discussion, photographs and physical play equipment, the childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of how to promote children's enjoyment of physical activities. She talks about providing daily outings to places that are of interest to children and providing outdoor activities that promote their enjoyment of the open air. The childminder describes how she takes children on visit to large parks to follow nature trails and to collect materials, such as leaves. She demonstrates how she provides physical activities in the garden, where children use wheeled toys, an outdoor play house, a combination climbing frame with a slide and tunnel and a sandpit.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder has taken action to ensure that almost all risks inside and outside the home are minimised. The exception to this is the cupboards in the kitchen which have locks that are not sufficiently well secured. Children's enjoyment of the setting is promoted well because all other safety features are in place to ensure that they can play freely. Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of how to maintain the safety of a range of children. She explains how she helps children to learn about their own safety through emergency evacuation practises that include all the children. The childminder describes further safety procedures that she practises on outings, such as ensuring that older children are fully aware of the need for all children to remain seated securely through the proper use of the seat belt. This helps to promote a sense of responsibility for their own safety and for the safety of others, as everyone remains alert at all times.

The childminder has developed a wide range of resources and describes how she promotes children's independence and all round development by ensuring that they have good access to them. They benefit from the use of good quality equipment that is maintained in a safe condition. Children explore their environment in premises that are well maintained.

Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of child protection. She is knowledgeable about the potential signs and symptoms and understands the correct reporting procedures. This means that she can act quickly in the child's best interest to safeguard their welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates how she implements the 'Birth to three matters' framework adequately by providing a broad range of planned activities and spontaneous events. She describes how she follows children's development through daily diaries which are used by parents to inform the childminder of children's progress at home. The childminder explains how this helps her to monitor children's progress adequately in the setting.

The childminder demonstrates how she fosters children's confidence suitably by allowing them to explore the setting at their own pace and to make decisions for themselves. She demonstrates how she helps children to choose activities and toys from an easily accessible range of shelves. Play resources are organised in a manner which gives young children choices by selecting from toys and activities placed at floor level.

The childminder talks about how she encourages children's creative skills by fostering young children's curiosity through discovery play, such as treasure baskets and by providing a suitable range of creative activities for a range of children. These include cooking, which is made suitable for all ages and abilities. There is clear evidence for this through photographs, displays of children's artwork and through resources to support creative play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates a professional approach and has developed sound relationships with parents and children. Parents demonstrate their support for the care she provides through cards and letters of commendation. The childminder explains how she works with parents to ensure that the care she provides is appropriate for each individual child through the use of a daily diary system.

The childminder describes how she manages children's behaviour positively through discussions which help them to think about the feelings of others and supports young children's cooperative play by helping them to share their toys. She explains how she boosts children's self-esteem and confidence by helping them to feel valued and describes how she promotes inclusive provision by ensuring that all activities are suitable for all children to participate and enjoy.

The childminder talks about how she provides activities which help children to value diversity by talking about and looking at the customs and beliefs of others. These include the Chinese New Year, Diwali and Eid. Children do not, however, benefit from sufficient resources that reflect positive images of cultural diversity, disability and gender as there are no books reflecting this.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are adequately protected because the adults who care for them are suitable to do so. Children receive sufficient adult support to feel secure and confident. Play resources are organised in a manner which helps to promote their free choice.

Children's welfare is suitably promoted because the records, policies and procedures which are required for the efficient and safe management of the provision are appropriately maintained. Through discussion, the appropriate recording of documentation and examples of written exchange of information with parents, the childminder demonstrates a suitable commitment to the care and welfare of children. Their interests are suitably promoted through documentary evidence of recent and relevant training to promote their welfare. For example, the childminder has undertaken training in child protection up to intermediate level, as well as training in the care of children with special needs. Overall, evidence suggests that the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to confirm that the information regarding the Area Child Protection Committee contains the relevant contact details. Children's safety is promoted well because the childminder keeps up-to-date contact details for reporting concerns.

Complaints 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.

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- improve children's safety by ensuring that hazardous materials in the kitchen are not accessible to them
- improve children's awareness of cultural diversity, disability and gender by developing the range of resources reflecting this to include books.

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