



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY264700
Inspection date	23 November 2006
Inspector	Judith, Mary Horsfall

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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was first registered in September 2003. She lives in the Brighouse area of Calderdale with her husband and two children aged seven and five years. The home is within walking distance of local schools, shops and a park. The ground floor playroom, kitchen, hall and upstairs bathroom are used for childminding.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding five children, some on a part time basis. The childminder takes children to the local parent/toddler group, library and school activity sessions.

The childminder has completed a Developing Childminding Practice course and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

The children are learning excellent health and hygiene practices because the childminder has robust policies and procedures. These are extended into activities, such as story time with books about brushing teeth and bath time. Children are highly motivated to take responsibility for their own hygiene routines. An example of this is having individual face and hand washing cloths at meal times which the children use to keep themselves clean.

The childminder has spent considerable time and care in preparing children for their first visit to the dentist, ensuring the children feel confident, knowledgeable and relaxed at the surgery.

The childminder uses extended knowledge and experience acquired from training and her previous work as a catering manager to provide healthy meals. Some ingredients are locally sourced, such as apples which are collected, with permission, by the children and childminder from a nearby orchard. The children enjoy using the apples as a cooking ingredient and sharing cooked items with their parents. Children are encouraged to try new foods, such as pomegranates and there are colourful displays of fruit and vegetables on the walls to promote this practice.

The children greatly benefit from daily physical activity outside the home, such as walks to local countryside and parks. The children talk in an animated manner about their walks to various facilities and clearly are very enthusiastic about exercise. Whenever possible the children walk rather than be transported in the car to increase their levels of exercise. The babies and younger children are closely monitored when sleeping to ensure they have adequate and safe rest in consultation with parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are welcomed into a very child friendly, safe home which includes an attractive, colourful, dedicated play room on the ground floor. The children are actively encouraged to access the rich choice of books and resource boxes, which are at a suitable level for the children to reach with confidence. The children further profit from the regular rotation of the wealth of high quality toys and craft resources stored upstairs.

Children of various ages benefit from an extensive range of suitable and safe equipment, such as baby monitors, safety gates and child sized furniture. Children's safety is robustly promoted by the use of appropriate activities and discussion with the children, particularly in the area of road safety as the childminder is on the local road safety committee where she has campaigned for improved signs and road markings.

The children are significantly protected by exemplary safety procedures including comprehensive risk assessments and fire evacuation procedures. Children's safety is further enhanced by the childminder's knowledge of child protection procedures and the understanding that the children's

welfare is paramount. Children are further protected by excellent practices, such as daily safety checks and reducing trip hazards by helping the children to tidy away toys after play.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The children settle extremely well and make themselves at home in a confident manner, acquiring new knowledge and skills, such as making different sounds with toy musical instruments. They relate to each other and to the childminder in a very caring, cooperative manner and are highly interested in their activities.

The children make positive choices from the enormous range of resources and activities on offer. Each day an extensive range of home based and off site activities is available. This rich choice contributes to the children's learning and development. Off site events include weekly family assemblies at the local school, visiting the library to select books and join in singing and dancing sessions. These activities coordinate with other visits to local community facilities, such as the childminder group, dentist and farm, helping children to learn more about their locality and the wider world.

The children are enthusiastically encouraged to develop through their play opportunities with the childminder gently helping the children learn different colours, fruits and numbers. Children's developmental needs and progress are expertly recorded to ensure that the children are offered opportunities which are suited to their individual requirements. Excellent examples of this are the highly comprehensive portfolios for younger children which relate to various elements of the 'Birth to three matters' framework, recording children's development, artwork and progress in great detail.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual care needs and routines are exceedingly well catered for in partnership with parents. The children's self-esteem is strongly promoted in many ways, such as praise, displays, portfolios, photographs, diaries and artwork. Children are highly valued as individuals, unique human beings and the childminder actively furthers the importance of caring for other people. Children are very enthusiastically encouraged to make choices and take decisions in a supportive environment.

Children greatly benefit from a very close working relationship between parents and the childminder, which ensures a high level of continuity and consistency between home and the childminder's care. Parents say that the childminder goes 'the extra mile' for their families, offering a pick up and drop off service for the children, taking children to the dentist and hairdresser, arranging holiday cover with a nearby childminder, whom the children know and even doing family laundry when parents are ill.

The children are learning about the wider world by having opportunities to play with a wealth of resources reflecting different people in society, such as play people with various disabilities and celebrating a broad selection of festivals. The childminder firmly challenges inappropriate

language and behaviour in a constructive manner, providing a strong role model for the children in how to show consideration for other people.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit greatly from the strongly motivated childminder and the consistently high levels of training undertaken. The children are very well protected and cared for by the childminder who has an exemplary professional approach to her work. The well-being of the children is of utmost importance and the children are highly respected as individuals.

Ratios of adults to children are always rigidly maintained to ensure the safety of the children. Documentation is highly comprehensive, with the children's individual records regularly updated and stored in a secure manner. Records are completed during the evenings or when the children are asleep as the childminder feels it is essential to give the children maximum attention and not be distracted by paperwork. Policies and procedures are not only of an exceptionally high quality, but they are also implemented on a daily basis, making a positive contribution to the children's progress, security and welfare.

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 the childminder was requested to carry out risk assessments particularly relating to a gas fire and outside gate. Since then she has moved house and has had a gas safety check undertaken on her new property and is not using the outside area of her current home.

She has completed extensive risk assessments for the new house.

There was also a request to develop knowledge and understanding of local Area Child Protection Committee guidance. The childminder has recently been on training in this subject, has increased her knowledge of the area, developed a written policy and maintains a list of relevant contact telephone numbers.

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

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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