



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY232022
Inspection date	11 December 2006
Inspector	Marina Anna Howarth
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 good. 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. He lives with his wife and adult daughter in Greetland, near Halifax. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, with toilet facilities located on the first floor and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder works with his wife who is also a registered childminder, both of them have joint responsibility for the childminding practice. He is registered to care for four children at any one time. The childminder is currently minding five children under five years during the day. He walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. He attends the local play groups and takes children to the farm and park. The childminder does not offer overnight care for children.

He supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. He is a member of an approved childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's care is exceptionally well fostered through highly considered routines. Individual and personal information is discussed to ensure that health and medical needs are identified and adhered to and recorded thoroughly in excellent documentation.

Children stay healthy because they benefit from the childminder's highly effective procedures. For example, there are excellent nappy changing procedures in place. Older children play an active role and offer explanations of the changing routine. They are familiar with the location of resources and why effective practices are in place. One child informs the Inspector of the changing routine and talks about the childminder using gloves and disposing of the nappies in the bin outside. Children's health is highly promoted because of the immaculately clean environment.

Children's health and lifestyle is extensively promoted as they are actively encouraged to develop their self-care skills. For example, children are aware of why it is important to wash their hands after visiting the toilet or before meal times. One child states "we wash our hands to wash away the germs, or else we might get poorly" Another child states "you cannot see the germs but you still need to wash them away". They benefit from the provision of soap dispensers, individual paper towels and tissues which they are able to access independently.

Physical activity is highly regarded and children are able to develop their physical skills in a wide range of activities on a daily basis. They enjoy daily walks to the local farm where they are involved in feeding the animals. There is a large rear garden which they are able to access, with an extensive range of equipment and resources, such as climbing apparatus, balls, bikes and hoops. They actively participate in activities at the local toddler groups, such as playing with large balloons which helps to develop their coordination and physical abilities. They also enjoy activities focused around the weather, such as splashing in puddles in the rain, building snowmen and playing in the paddling pool during the summer.

Children are clearly aware of good nutrition and understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They enjoy an excellent range of fresh food for all their snacks and meals. Their dietary needs are discussed with parents and recorded on individual record sheets to ensure that continuity of care is maintained. Meal and snack times provide children with the opportunity to sit together in a relaxed environment developing their social skills and making the experience highly enjoyable. Children are refreshed at regular intervals and enjoy water or milk. They each have their own drinking vessels which gives them a sense of belonging and they are able to access them at any time.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a safe, warm and welcoming environment. The childminder has an excellent understanding of safety issues, children have space to move around safely and freely

as he has minimised risks to keep them free from harm. Children learn about danger as the childminder helps them to understand how to keep themselves safe. They practice fire evacuation procedures and learn about road safety as they cross the road. They confidently inform the Inspector about it being very important to leave your things behind in event of a fire as you are more important. They engage in singing a road safety song and explaining what they have to do when they reach the road.

Children have access to a superb range of quality toys and resources which are suitable for all their ages and stages of development. Resources have been carefully chosen to support children's play and are checked on a regular basis for hygiene and safety. Children independently access the resources as they are effectively organised and enable children to have freedom of choice.

Documentation and policies are in place and consistently maintained to safeguard children's welfare. Children are very well protected as the childminder has a clear knowledge and understanding of child protection in conjunction with safeguarding children. Children's welfare and safety remain paramount and of high priority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of child development and how children learn which enables him to offer flexible, high quality care, which is suited to each child. Children enjoy an extensive range of activities and experiences, which contributes to their creativity and imagination, such as singing songs, reading books, making party hats, dressing up, playing games and building things.

Children display high levels of confidence in their daily activities and are developing very good independence skills as they busy themselves and become absorbed in their activities. Their early communication skills are extremely well supported through high quality interaction with the childminder as they enthusiastically discuss their activities and talk about what they are doing.

The childminder is skilful in encouraging children to make very good progress in all areas of development. For example, children participate in a wide variety of activities and experiences which extend their knowledge. They learn the life cycle of a caterpillar by visiting the butterfly park. They learn about different foods that animals eat by feeding the pigs at the local farm. One child states "the pigs like to eat potatoes and cabbage leaves and the horse likes to eat apples"

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their specific needs are met by the childminder who works in close partnership with parents to offer very good care to children. This ensures that they are fully included into the life of the setting. They are made to feel welcome in the warm, friendly environment with the childminder being a positive role model. Children settle well because the childminder offers a flexible service to meet their individual needs. They are

given sound opportunities to develop their awareness of the world around them. For example, resources depict positive images of race, gender, disability and culture. They actively participate in the celebration of different festivals and they are told that everyone is special in their own way and to accept differences.

Children demonstrate a good understanding of responsible behaviour as they follow the guidance implemented by the childminder. Each child receives praise and encouragement which reflects in their good behaviour and sense of achievement. They work harmoniously with each as they learn to share resources and take turns during a lotto game. Children are confident and proud of their achievements. For example, they delight in showing the Inspector their special record books which contain photographs of their experiences of time spent in the childminder's care. One child states "look at me there, that was my first day here and I was a little baby"

The childminder has developed good relationships with parents. There is an information pack which he has put together giving details of the service he offers and contains all the relevant policies and procedures. However the complaints policy requires updating to give the current address and contact number of the regulator. Parents are happy with the care they receive, one parent states "a flexible service is offered, and I am kept fully informed about my child's progress" Another parent states "my child is happy and settled here and is reluctant to come home".

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder's home is very well organised to provide an accessible and stimulating environment for the children. They are comfortable, relaxed and feel at home as they can access a wide variety of toys and resources independently and their artwork is displayed on the walls.

Policies and procedures are used effectively and are of a good standard to promote the safety, care and learning of children. However, the complaints procedure requires updating. These are shared with parents during the gradual admission and are readily available. As a result of this parents are kept informed about all aspects of their children's care and the good quality of service provided.

The childminder demonstrates a high commitment to attend further training and updating his skills and knowledge. As a result of this, children benefit from his continued development, knowledge and understanding of good quality childcare practice.

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 the childminder was requested to consider amending the daily register, medication forms and written agreements to clearly show when children are solely in the care of one childminder, which childminder has administered medication and sign all written agreements for children being cared for.

All the records have now been reviewed and are now clear and concise detailing the relevant information.

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):

- ensure the written complaints procedure is updated to include the regulators current address and contact number

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