



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	303628
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 2000. She lives with her husband, who is also a co-childminder and their adult daughter, in Greetland, near Halifax. Both childminders have joint responsibility for the childminding practice. 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 is registered to care for four children at any one time. She is currently minding five children under five years during the day. She walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler groups and takes children to the farm and a park. The childminder does not offer overnight care for children.

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

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive because the childminder has a highly effective approach to health and hygiene. Children learn about the importance of being healthy through the childminder's skilful support and guidance. For example, they know to wash their hands after using the toilet and before handling food. They are aware about germs and keeping themselves clean. The childminder reduces the risk of infection by ensuring that her home is always clean and well maintained. Paper towels are used and children are gently reminded to put their hands over their mouth when coughing.

Every day children benefit from either a planned or spontaneous activity to promote their physical well-being. They are encouraged by the childminder's infectious enthusiasm and admirable energy, and participate in activities focused around the weather, such as splashing in puddles in the rain, building snowmen and playing in the paddling pool during the summer. They actively participate in activities at the local toddler groups, such as riding bikes which helps to develop their coordination and physical abilities.

Children are well nourished because the childminder has an excellent knowledge of nutrition and plans a varied menu for the children, which is both healthy and appetising. They enjoy an excellent range of fresh food for all their snacks and meals. Children have their health and dietary needs well met because the childminder liaises with parents and is aware of any allergies or intolerances that they may have. As a result 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, 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 meticulously safeguarded through the childminder's paramount concern and excellent practice. For example, risk assessments are conducted to identify hazards with regard to use of equipment, space within the home and considerations for outings and transport.

Children learn about their own and others safety through following excellent practice of the childminder who is an exceptional role model. Children are involved in regular and recorded fire drills and fire safety discussions. For example, one child states "if there is a fire in the kitchen, we hear the alarm and we go out the front door, but if there is a fire in the living room or hallway then we must go out the back door. It is very important to ring the fire brigade".

Children have full and open access to their environment. They are encouraged and supported by the childminder to access all spaces and equipment that is suitable for their age and stage of development and complies with British Safety Standards.

Children are protected from harm through the childminder's precise knowledge of child protection issues. The children's protection is vital to the childminder, whose extreme dedication to each child and commitment to ongoing training and further personal development, ensures this.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children's enjoyment and achievements, both in and out of the setting are greatly promoted through the excellent documentation in place. These include many photographs of the children, individual record books detailing experiences and achievements and beautiful displays of the children's artwork.

Children benefit from the childminder's extensive knowledge and a wealth of experience of caring for a wide range of children with differing abilities. Their individual development is successfully promoted through the childminder's use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework as a reference point and for additional ideas.

Children develop a huge amount of confidence and positive self esteem through the interaction, care, love and attention they receive from the childminder. Children are valued and treated with trust, concern and respect by the childminder who has a wonderful manner and overwhelming warmth. Children thrive on the fabulous, relaxed and homely feel. For example, the childminder sits on the sofa with a group of children who snuggle up together. She asks the children "now what do I need to read the book?", one child responds giggling "your sun glasses" all the children laugh and the childminder states "yes I do need my glasses but not sunglasses as they would be too dark, they help to protect my eyes from the sun". All children are welcomed with open arms and are encouraged to build relationships and gain trust in others.

Children's individual needs are thoroughly met through the exceptional range and amount of resources and the opportunities to attend various groups and provisions within the local community. They flourish through the purposeful activities and experiences. The childminder's enthusiasm is evident and fun and laughter are a prominent feature of the household.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's sense of belonging is fully fostered through the warm, welcoming and homely atmosphere, and the childminder's overwhelming dedication to their care. Children's awareness and understanding of the diverse community is promoted well. For example, the resources, activities and discussions display care, respect and true appreciation for others and their equality.

Children are aware of boundaries and as a result are very well behaved. Each child receives praise and encouragement which is reflected in their good behaviour. They are developing an awareness of other children's needs and actively participate in activities where they share and take turns.

Children's continuity of care is significantly promoted through the childminder's valued relationships with the parents. They are welcomed into the childminder's home and opinions are shared at the initial visit. The rapport continues to develop, with good systems in place for sharing information. Parents express their satisfaction with the service they receive by stating that the childminder provides a flexible service, their children benefit from the wide range of activities and experiences and that their children are happy in the childminder's care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's space is organised well and all resources meet the children's developmental needs. Children are welcomed into a comfortable, well maintained, stimulating environment. They have independent access to a wide variety of toys and resources and these are located within easy access to aid independence.

Although the childminder's husband takes overall responsibility for maintaining appropriate records, she completes records appropriately when required, however the regulators address requires updating in the complaints procedure.

There are effective systems in place to ensure that parents are kept informed about all aspects of their children's care and that a good quality service provided.

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

Overall, the provision meets the needs 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

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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