



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	510375
Inspection date	01 June 2005
Inspector	Helene Anne Terry

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1998. She lives with her husband in a split level semi-detached bungalow in the Bolton Road area of Bradford West Yorkshire. They are close to all local amenities and schools. The childminder with two assistants and occasionally another childminder. Areas of the home used for the children include the conservatory, dining area, kitchen and bathroom on the main floor of the property, plus a play room on the lower ground floor. The rear garden is used for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time, however when minding with assistants and or co-childminder can take up to ten children. At present they care for twenty-two children between the ages of eight months and fourteen years; most of whom attend for various sessions throughout the week. The childminder transports children to and from the local school. The family have two dogs, a cat, five rabbits and birds.

The childminder regularly attends toddlers groups and is registered to provide overnight care for two children as required. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder gives good consideration to health and hygiene within the home, which promotes children's well being and prevents cross infection. For example, toys are washed regularly and children use individual wipes and have their own bed linen. Children are also beginning to learn about basic personal hygiene as they wash their hands after visiting the toilet. The childminder adequately protects children from infection according to parents wishes. She has a verbal agreement with parents regarding sickness and discusses potential risks to children's health with parents as issues arise. For example recently some of the children attending contracted chicken pox and it was the parents decision whether their child came into contact with the virus or not.

Children are developing satisfactory eating habits through a reasonably healthy diet. The childminder follows parents wishes and adheres to children's individual dietary needs. Parents usually provide meals for babies and the childminder provides for older children depending on the hours that they are present. The children have regular access to drinks throughout the day to maintain their health, although facilities are not available for them to help themselves.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. They have good access to outdoor facilities, including wheeled toys, ball pool and balls. They also enjoy visits to local parks and playgrounds, where they can develop large physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Although children are secure and confident in the well maintained clean environment there is a restrictive use of space for the younger children, which impacts on their ability for free movement; ability to initiate their own learning and impedes on their safety. Currently younger children are using the lower ground floor play room, which is not of an adequate size to accommodate large numbers of children. Older children do have more space for free movement, as they have a greater ability to access

other areas of the house. Furniture, equipment and toys provided are appropriate for their use and cover a wide age range; these are all well maintained and conform to safety standards, protecting children's safety. However, safety precautions are not always taken to prevent accidents, for example reins are not always used to secure babies in the highchair. Children's understanding of fire safety in the home is limited because the childminder is not developing their knowledge of the fire evacuation procedures. This is important as children are cared for on different levels of the house and should know where to go in the event of a fire. Closed-circuit television is used to ensure children's safety outdoors in the shed, when it is used for outdoor activities.

The childminder does not have a secure understanding of child protection issues, which may compromise children's welfare. The Area Child Protection Committee Procedures are not available with details of who to contact should she have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the child friendly environment where they have good access to a wide range of activities which enhances their development in most areas. However, activities are not planned to take into consideration the individual needs of the children present, for example through the use of the Birth to three matters framework. Older children freely choose what they wish to play with, there by initiating their own learning. These children play together well; being co-operative and sharing and taking turns. However, the younger children, although co-operative some of the time, find it difficult to share and frequently squabble over toys and over space available.

The children have a good varied routine which takes into consideration times for snacks, meals, rests and activities, promoting their well being. Children also enjoy outings to various places of interest such as parks, playgrounds, farms and toddler groups. Parents wishes are fully considered and individual babies routines are effectively adhered to.

Interaction between the childminder, assistants and the children is warm and trusting relationships have been developed, which increases children's sense of well being and confidence. Children receive cuddles when upset and adults speak with the children, showing an interest in what they are doing. Children's independence skills are developing appropriately, for example they take off and put on their own shoes, coats, visit the toilet and ask for activities they desire. The adults support the children effectively.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are effectively met through a variety of means including

information received from parents at the gradual induction of the child. However, resources that positively reflect diversity in society are limited, this hinders children's ability to understand the wider world and people's differences and similarities. Discussions revealed that the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of special needs issues.

The childminder has a good understanding of behaviour management techniques to reinforce positive behaviour. Children are respected as individuals and methods such as distraction, explanations, time out and praise and encouragement are used, which help children understand their boundaries and the impact of their behaviour on others.

Children benefit from the satisfactory partnership with parents which is established. Children are cared for according to parents wishes, for example, babies are fed and sleep inline with their routine at home; this promotes continuity of care and their well being. Regular discussions take place about the children's daily activities and progress, although there is limited written information available to parents about the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Most of the required documentation for the efficient and safe management of the setting, and to promote the welfare and care of children is satisfactorily maintained, although written information about the setting which is available for parents is limited. Information concerning children is shared verbally on a regular basis.

The childminder's good understanding of the vetting procedures for adults coming into contact with the children ensures that children are kept safe. However, children's safety and well being is compromised in other areas due to the childminder not holding a current first aid certificate; limited understanding of child protection issues and not adhering to the numbers of children for which she is registered for, as specified on her certificate of registration. This means that the needs of all children who attend are not met.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last Children Act inspection required that the childminder improve documentation by keeping information relating to any assistants working on the premises. She was also required to complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children. Safety of a slide in the home was also to be addressed. There were also a number of recommendations to be considered including fire evacuation procedures, documentation relating to anyone transporting children in a vehicle and the extension of resources reflecting positive images of disability.

The childminder has made limited improvements, which impacts on children's safety. Documentation is now adequately maintained, information concerning assistants and

those transporting children in a vehicle are now available. The safety of the slide is no longer applicable as it is not available for use. However, the childminder has not attended a first aid course and has not devised and practiced an emergency fire escape plan. Children's understanding of people's differences and similarities are not fostered as the childminder has not extended resources to reflect positive images of disability in society.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 there has been one complaint relating to standard 6 Safety. Concerns were raised about the large number of children playing outside the home unsupervised. The provider was asked to undertake an internal investigation and she reported her findings to Ofsted; stating that the children reported to be playing outside were her grandchildren and their friends. No further action was taken. The childminder remains qualified for registration.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- provide details of when an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children will be attended and completed
- maintain adult-child ratios inline with conditions of registration at all times
- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues; obtain a copy of the Area Child Protection Committee Procedures, including details of who to contact should any concerns arise
- ensure that the premises are used effectively to create adequate space for the numbers and ages of the children present

These actions are set out in a **notice of action to improve** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and*

concerns about inspectors' judgements which is available from Ofsted's website:
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