



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	302231
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 March 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Ingrid Szczerban
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 1986. She lives with her husband in a link-detached house in a quiet residential area of Bradford, which is close to shops and within walking distance of local parks. Most of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently caring for six children. She takes and collects children from school and also cares for them in the holidays. She attends local groups with young children and is a member of the Bradford Childminding Network.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about simple personal hygiene and personal care as part of the day's routines as they are reminded to wash hands after using the toilet or potty. The home is very clean and tidy as the childminder follows a regular cleaning routine, which prevents the spread of infection to children. The childminder implements a satisfactory sickness policy in order to protect children when they are ill. A record of all medicines and accidents is kept. However, the accident book does not specify exactly the part of the body that is injured and there is lack of consistency with entering the full date of accidents.

Children receive sufficient food and drink to meet their needs. The parents provide their meals and the childminder gives snacks. These include healthy foods, such as fruit and carrot sticks. Children respond well to mealtime routines and sit at the dining table to eat and make conversation.

Children's health benefits from having their need for regular rest and meal times met. Children enjoy physical activity. They are taken to venues such as adventure play areas and the park, or they play in the garden and hence develop running, balancing and climbing skills. Children develop control and coordination over their bodies, and gain a sense of rhythm as they dance on the music mat.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Good use is made of the space available and children have plenty of freedom to move around most of the ground floor independently. Toys are well-ordered into separate boxes and stored at child height, thereby encouraging independence and decision making. Children are kept safe because the childminder has considered and minimised all potential hazards both on the premises and when taking children on outings. Children know how to keep themselves and others from harm because the childminder actively supports this learning. For example, they discuss the use of matches as they colour in fire safety sheets, and, when out and about, they learn how to cross roads safely.

Children freely access an excellent range of toys and equipment which are safe, developmentally appropriate and of good quality. The supply of toys and resources is replenished frequently, and the childminder buys resources for children's specific interests, such as a book about the inside workings of the body. Children are kept safe because the childminder has regular clear outs of toys and checks them as they are used, discarding any broken ones.

The childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues. She has written procedures to follow provided by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, with contact telephone numbers to use should the need arise. Therefore children's welfare needs are fully addressed. Children learn about 'stranger danger' through discussion with the childminder, and they know what to do if approached by an unknown adult.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are confident in their warm relationships with the childminder. They are happy, very well settled and receive plenty of reassuring cuddles. Children benefit from regular routines planned around their needs which contributes to their emotional well-being. For example, high priority is given to providing regular meals and sleep times.

Children experience an extensive range of activities both inside and outside the home which expand learning in all areas of their development. They learn about nature as they go on 'bug hunts' in the garden and collect different types of leaves. The children have fun learning about the world, past and present, because a host of interesting trips are planned for them during the school holidays. These include riding donkeys at the seaside and going to museums, where they have a go at ballroom dancing. Young children develop good social skills. They attend regular toddler groups and visit the homes of other childminders. Children are encouraged to take supervised risks; they challenge themselves to climb trees in the park or slide down from a great height at an adventure play centre. This increases children's self-esteem and builds their confidence in physical activities.

Children are confident and communicate very well because the childminder promotes and extends conversations to help them develop this skill. Young children communicate with pleasure, they smile as they babble and use simple words and gestures. The childminder is attuned to their individual speech patterns and extends language development very well, by showing enthusiasm and talking to them about what they are doing.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children begin to appreciate similarities and differences and develop positive attitudes to others because a selection of toys and books that reflect aspects of diversity are provided. Suitable arrangements would be made to care for children with learning difficulties should the need arise.

Children are well behaved and polite. They learn to share and take turns and older children are able to resolve minor conflicts themselves. Children know what is right and wrong because the childminder is consistent in her use of age-appropriate behaviour management strategies. Children receive frequent praise and encouragement which results in them being happy and confident.

Children benefit from the positive partnerships that are established with parents, some of the older children have been cared for since they were babies. They are happy and settled with the childminder. The childminder records full details about children before they start, thereby promoting continuity of care and ensuring that children are cared for according to parents' wishes. Parents are warmly welcomed and, when collecting children, information is shared with them about their child's activities. However, there is no system in place for recording any complaints that may be received in writing from parents.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Space is organised well to meet the needs of the children, so that they are able to initiate their own play and learning. Routines are organised effectively to meet children's needs and they are kept safe due to the childminder's good awareness of vetting procedures for adults. Children receive good levels of individual support, time and attention from the childminder who maintains the correct adult-child ratio.

The childminder is committed to ongoing training to enhance the service she provides for children. Training courses attended include, 'Birth to three matters', risk and play, multi cultural play, and music and musical games.

All required documentation is kept, the registration certificate is displayed and the register is accurate and up to date. However, documentation is not well ordered. Outdated certificates and procedures are kept as well as new ones. This results in an overwhelming amount of information being kept and makes it difficult to locate the current documentation.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Following the last inspection a recommendation was raised regarding documentation. The childminder has improved her system for recording accidents. These are now written into a hard backed book so that no pages can fall out.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since 1 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 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):

- provide more detail in the accident records to state the specific part of the body that is injured, and consistently record the full date of each accident
- improve the organisation of documentation
- develop a system for recording any written complaints that may be received from parents.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)