



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	401124
Inspection date	15 June 2005
Inspector	Melissa Louise Patel

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 lives in a end terraced cottage in Bradley near Skipton. She lives with her husband and two children aged sixteen and fifteen years. She has been a registered childminder since 1993. She currently cares for eight minded children. The areas used for childminding are the ground floor, except the kitchen, and the first floor children's bedrooms and bathroom. There is an enclosed grassed area for outdoor play to the rear of the property.

There are several pets; two cats, gold fish, and chipmunks.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children of all ages enjoy a varied range of good physical activity which contributes to their overall good health. Most days they access outdoor activities, such as playing outdoors in a large garden, with access to a range of equipment to develop their gross motor skills well. For example, they can climb, slide and use runabout toys. The children also receive regular fresh air on outings to the park, and on walks. Therefore, children can develop control of their bodies well through running and climbing. Indoors children make good use of a spacious environment where they can move around freely and they are building their self-confidence.

Children are well nourished through receiving healthy snacks, for example, breadsticks, fruit, fresh vegetables and meals, such as tuna pasta with broccoli. Children are able to access regular healthy drinks, such as water. Dietary needs are met well, through discussion with parents and recording and following through their wishes.

Children are starting to learn the importance of good hygiene practices. For example children use individual hand towels. The childminder encourages appropriate hand washing and talks about why hand washing is necessary.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe in a warm, safe, and child-orientated environment, where the childminder gives safety a high priority. Safety requirements are in place. This means children of all ages are well supervised and can move around safely and with confidence.

Children are able to independently access a wide range of well-organised resources which are in good condition and regularly checked for damages. Children are learning well about keeping themselves safe through daily activities. These include; road safety, stories, fire practices, and help with using the steps indoors.

The childminder has all the required safety procedures and documents and some additional documents in place. This helps children's welfare to be safeguarded and promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are well settled and happy and the children currently cared for have been minded long term.

The childminder has a good understanding of the children's needs under and over three years. She has an appropriate understanding of the Birth to three matters framework. This means children are learning well and enjoying becoming independent by choosing their own activities which are readily available for them. Children's individual needs are also met, such as, the childminder recognising their need for rest and sleep.

Children are learning well together through good communication at story time and through a good range of resources and activities, such as music, mark making and creative activities. Children are learning to recognise colours, shapes and about the world around them through planned and spontaneous activities. For example, the children enjoy seeing wild rabbits daily in the garden, then learn more about rabbits through an enjoyable planned activity, including a story and creative play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children are well settled and included in activities. For example, children are encouraged to join in activities by ensuring younger children can sit at the table, or on the childminder's knee. Children are starting to learn a positive view of the wider world and diversity of others in society, through suitable resources and activities, such as, books and dressing-up costumes and materials. However, images displayed to promote equal opportunities are under developed.

Children's behaviour is good and this is reinforced by the childminder recognising children's achievements well, for example, by stating 'well done' when a child completes their picture, or for picking up a toy.

The childminder liaises well with the parents by talking with them, and by providing useful written information. This includes a range of policies and procedures, and a daily diary for each individual child under two; these promote children's overall welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children access a well-organised environment which is bright and stimulating indoors and outdoors. This contributes well to children's learning. Children are happy, relate well to the childminder and are developing self-confidence. They are able to move around freely, access their own choice of play materials, and are developing their individual skills.

The childminder makes effective use of policies and procedures and shows a commitment to attend and up-date training, which includes Birth to three matters and child protection. This helps promote the care and learning of children, and keeps parents well informed about daily routines.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection, the childminder has improved child protection procedures by including the Local Area Child Protection Committee procedures in her documentation and by attending a child protection course.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report

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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):

- develop images to promote equal opportunities

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: www.ofsted.gov.uk