

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY347809
Inspection date 13 August 2007
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 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 2007. She lives with her husband and teenage daughter in Brighouse, West Yorkshire. The whole ground floor and first floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. At present she has two children on roll, aged one and two years, who attend for various sessions throughout the week. The family has a dog.

The childminder regularly attends toddler groups and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy good physical activity during the day to benefit their health. They play on equipment in the park, go for nature walks and play in the garden on the slide, swing and in

the ballpool. Documentation that is in place to protect children's welfare is maintained very well. Most required documentation, including a sickness policy, written parental permissions for emergency medical treatment and medication and accident records are in place. The childminder has an up to date first aid certificate.

Children's dietary needs are met well. The childminder has a sound understanding of the nutritional needs of children to offer them a good balanced diet. At present, parents provide lunch for their children and the childminder offers healthy snacks through the day, such as fruit and raisins. Drinks are accessible in children's own cups. Information about children's dietary needs is obtained from parents and is met well by the childminder.

Children benefit from a clean and well maintained home. They are developing a suitable awareness of personal hygiene as they wash their hands before meals and after toileting. The childminder minimises the risk of cross infection well through the regular cleaning of toys, wiping of the nappy changing mat and ensuring children use individual wipes for their hands and face. Pet hygiene is fully considered. Parents are informed that children who are ill should not attend the setting; this further prevents cross infection and promotes children's well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of child protection, although there are weaknesses in her procedures that potentially compromise children's welfare. She is awaiting a copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures from the local authority to update her files. However, she has attended training in this area. Parents are informed of the childminder's responsibilities towards children in her care.

The home is used adequately for the needs of the children. The kitchen area and garden are currently used for the children, although the childminder has plans to extend the play areas. The childminder ensures that children are cared for in a setting that enables them to feel secure and comfortable within their surroundings. Appropriate steps are taken to minimise risks and all safety equipment is in place to protect children. For example, a fire blanket and smoke alarms are in place and all chemicals are out of reach. However, a fire evacuation plan has not been devised or practised with the children in the event of an emergency. This compromises children's safety. Children are beginning to learn about their own personal safety when they talk about road safety when out and about, and being careful as they play on the equipment.

There is a sufficient range of safe resources and equipment available for the young children currently attending. However, these are only suitable for young children because resources are limited for older children. Children freely select from the range of resources made available to them, which are stored in accessible containers in the kitchen and garden.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children take part in a suitable range of activities to enhance their learning. The childminder has an awareness of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to support young children's learning, however, she has not yet begun to implement this in the planning of the activities. Children choose from a sufficient range of stimulating activities. These resources promote the children's learning and contribute to their overall development. The children immensely enjoy playing on the slide, as they develop coordination and physical skills. The childminder supports them well

and reminds them about safety; ensuring that they hold on with two hands. They learn how to differentiate between colours as they play with the balls in the ballpool and delight in rolling them down the slide. Babies are given the opportunity to practise walking skills, as they use push alongs and are given the freedom and space to move around. Children are also given the opportunity to be creative when they paint and use their imaginations as they play with the tea set.

An interesting varied routine is followed to enrich children's well-being. They have time for rests, meals and activities indoors and outdoors. They visit places of interest and play gyms so that they learn to socialise with their peers. Children relate very well to the childminder, owing to the close relationship established. She spends most of her time engaged in children's play and extending learning. Children are happy and settled and enjoy their time together.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder promotes children's understanding of the wider community through activities and some resources that positively display some areas of diversity in society. For example, children access dolls and books that represent multiculturalism. However, there are no resources that positively represent disability. The childminder has experience of caring for people with disabilities and learning difficulties and discussions reveal she is proactive in identifying needs to enable children to reach their full potential.

Children's individual needs are met effectively to promote their well-being. Information is obtained from parents at their induction and is adhered to. Children are gradually settled to ensure a smooth transition from home. There are effective systems in place to ensure information is shared on a regular basis about their child's progress and daily activities, for example, through daily chats. The children take home creative work that they have done, so as to inform parents of their activities. There are written policies and procedures about the setting that are shared with parents, such as child protection, behaviour management and equal opportunities. This promotes the two processes in caring for children. However, written permission is not obtained from parents to enable children to be transported in the car.

Effective strategies are in place to encourage children to behave well. For example, children are praised for their achievements, and they are encouraged to share and take turns. Reward systems are in place to promote positive behaviour. Children are generally well behaved owing to the childminder's involvement in play, and they display good manners.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The majority of the required records to promote the welfare of children are well maintained. They are easily accessible, filed neatly and are stored confidentially.

The childminder organises space and resources to meet the needs of the children effectively. As a result, children feel at home and at ease. Children are kept safe due to the childminder's good awareness of vetting procedures for adults having supervised or unsupervised access to the children. Children are never left alone with unvetted adults and children are not allowed to leave the setting with unauthorised adults. The childminder attends training to update her knowledge and enhance the care she provides for children. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 complaint 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):

- obtain a copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures
- devise an emergency fire evacuation plan and regularly practise it with the children
- continue to extend the range of toys and equipment available for the children to enhance learning
- obtain parental written permission to enable children to be transported in the car.

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