

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY350019
Inspection date 20 September 2007
Inspector Shazaad Arshad

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 child in Brighouse near Halifax and Huddersfield. The home is on one floor and the dining room is used for childminding and the bathroom is located off the rooms in the hallway. 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.

There are currently eight children on roll.

The childminder attends local childminder support groups and carer and toddler groups on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's good health is promoted very well because the childminder is proactive in ensuring effective hygiene procedures are in place. For example, children use their own individual coloured hand towels after hand washing and these are replaced daily. Children understand their own personal hygiene; they can explain clearly why they need to wash their hands and they have a good understanding about the importance of this. A clear policy about illness and infection is explained to parents and they work closely with the childminder to ensure their children are well enough to attend.

Children's dietary needs are well provided for and the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of nutrition and healthy eating. Children have a variety of different foods to support their growth and development throughout the day in their snacks and meals. Sample menus are shown to parents to inform them of the types of foods that are given to children and they receive daily information about what their child has eaten. Children discuss the foods they like and they are involved in a range of activities that enable them to prepare food, such as baking. They have regular access to drinks throughout the day which means they are not thirsty.

Children experience a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities that promote their physical development, such as regular access to the garden, park, play centres and local walks. Suitable equipment provides children with opportunities to develop their agility and the childminder supports them in their play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure and welcoming environment which is free from hazards. They enjoy accessing toys and equipment within the playroom and they can reach many things or point to what they need. A good range of quality toys and equipment appropriate for their development is available and they enjoy playing imaginatively with craft materials and role play equipment.

The childminder assesses risks in and around the home to ensure children play safely and she supervises them in their activities at all times. They play outdoors in the enclosed garden which the childminder checks for safety before it is used. All outdoor equipment is safe and well maintained. Children are encouraged to learn about how to keep themselves safe through simple discussion and gentle reminders, such as not to climb on furniture or throw toys. Although an emergency evacuation procedure is in place, the children have not practised it to develop their understanding of fire safety.

Children are safeguarded because the childminder is aware of identifying any possible concerns. She understands how to protect children in line with the general guidance, however, she does not have a copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled and they have fun with the childminder. They enjoy a variety of opportunities to learn through play and the childminder joins in with their activities to enhance their experiences. She knows each child well and responds to their interests and stage of development. For example, she chats with children about the work at school and children follow on the activities from school developing their three dimension models. All the children are interested and help each other. Children chatter constantly and they freely talk about what they like to do when they are with the childminder.

Activities are well planned and evaluated and these take into consideration the ages of children present and their individual routines. Individual observations are shared with parents and children are consulted about what they would like to do so that they are involved in making decisions about their play. They enjoy craft type activities and they make cards for special events, such as birthdays, Father's day and celebrations. As part of healthy living week the children have made a model of a health spa and all the children have taken part in the activity.

Children visit toddler groups on a regular basis to enhance their social skills through interacting with other groups of children. The childminder is aware of how children learn and she encourages their interest in letter sounds, shapes and colours within the play environment. For example, toddlers are beginning to repeat basic words and things in books. The childminder divides her time up fairly to ensure each child receives high levels of individual attention appropriate to their needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about the needs of others through access to suitable resources and activities which support their understanding of diversity. Simple explanations given by the childminder enable children to develop a positive approach to people's similarities and differences. Children enjoy tasting fruit from other countries as they learn about different cultures and festivals from around the world. The childminder ensures all children have fair and equal access to all toys and equipment available and she encourages their free choice. The childminder has a positive approach to caring for all children and she supports their individual needs through working closely with parents throughout their child's placement with her.

Children's behaviour is managed effectively through strategies, such as positive encouragement and recognition for what children do well. They respond well to simple rules and boundaries which they know, such as not wearing shoes indoors. Good manners are encouraged and the childminder is an effective role model for this, resulting in children being polite and courteous with one another. Children's behaviour is discussed with parents and they work closely together to ensure consistency.

Daily communication with parents enables them to feel included in their child's time with the childminder. Written consent is obtained for all aspects of their child's care and the childminder consults parents fully to ensure their wishes are respected. Parents are very happy with the service they receive and they feel the childminder meets their child's individual needs very well.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from well organised care with the childminder. They have a secure routine which they know and this gives them a sense of belonging. Play areas are well set out and inviting to children, with colourful posters, photographs and artwork on display. Low numbers of children being cared for enables the childminder to give individual attention according to their needs. The childminder is aware of current childcare issues and she is committed to her own training and development to enhance the quality of care given to the children. The childminder has a recognised childcare qualification and extensive experience of caring for children in nursery settings.

Documentation is mostly up to date, well filed and confidentially stored, although accident records are not maintained fully. Parents have access to comprehensive policies and procedures that underpin the practice and illustrate the care that is provided.

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 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):

- develop children's awareness of fire safety through practising fire drills
- obtain the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures
- improve accident recording systems.

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