

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	303607
Inspection date	31 July 2007
Inspector	Rasmik Parmar

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 has been registered since 1997. She lives with her husband and two children in a fully detached house in Halifax. The ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor is available for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. There are currently nine children on roll. Children attend a variety of sessions. There are three cats as family pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and is an accredited childminder with the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are helped to stay healthy to a good standard as the childminder follows daily routines to ensure that children understand the need for good personal hygiene. For example, the

childminder provides sterile wipes for children to clean their hands and faces after eating cut pieces of watermelon and plums. Such procedures effectively minimise the risk of cross infection. The welfare and safety of the children is promoted by an effective policy on administering medication and the parents being aware of communicable diseases through the sickness policy.

Children enjoy varied and nutritious meals and snacks in order to help them to grow and develop good eating habits. The childminder provides either a home-cooked lunch or tea once a day, using fresh vegetables and meat together with few convenience foods. She also provides an alternative to meat and is able to meet the different dietary needs of children. The childminder provides healthy snacks throughout the day which include a good selection of fruits. Children are involved in cooking and preparing various types of foods, such as baking biscuits and making sandwiches to expand their understanding of healthy eating.

The childminder writes weekly menus after consultation with the children who ensure the foods available to them are of their own liking. The menu is written on the wipeable poster for the children to see what they will be eating. The childminder is sensitive in ensuring children are suitably given plenty of fluids to drink throughout the day. Older children have water bottles and younger children have beakers of water, accessible to them at their height.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a warm, caring and child-centred environment. There is plenty of space for the children to play in a safe environment. The through lounge and conservatory is well set out for childminding and has a good range of toys and equipment suitable for the needs of the children. They are able to explore and play with a varied selection of activities which are easily accessible to them, enabling them to expand their interests in many areas of play for all-round development.

The childminder has a health and safety policy and has carried out a risk assessment for potential hazards within the house for the safety of children under her care. To promote an awareness of fire safety, she has a written fire evacuation procedure. However, regular fire drills are not carried out in order to familiarise children with the routine. An effective system is in place to ensure the continued safety of children on outings as the childminder obtains prior permission from the parents. She uses safety reins for younger children when walking and has access to appropriate booster seats for children when using her car. To further promote safety, the childminder constantly teaches children about road safety during outings as part of their ongoing learning experience.

Children's welfare is safeguarded to a good standard as the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of her role in protecting children. She is aware of possible signs of abuse or neglect and the procedures to follow should any concerns arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and confident in an environment where they are able to develop their confidence and independence. The childminder is able to take the opportunity to ensure children are constantly learning by allowing older children to suggest types of activities they would like to participate in.

Children develop a variety of skills by playing with play dough, dressing up, watching children's video tapes, reading, imaginative play and arts and crafts activities. Children enjoy physical play by being taken out to the local parks, toddler groups and local shops. The rear garden is also used for physical play activities with a good selection of resources. Hence, children are able to develop confidence, channel their energies in a positive direction and develop their physical skills.

The childminder follows the 'Birth to three matters' framework informally to plan activities for younger children. She has attended training to help her to record and evaluate her planning. A 'two-way' diary is kept for younger children and this is available to parents to take home and add their own entries as part of working in partnership for the overall benefit of children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals as the childminder uses information from parents to meet the specific needs of the child. Equality of opportunity is promoted as all children are able to play with the full selection of activities without discrimination. In addition, the good selection of resources which portray culture and learning difficulties or disabilities promote an understanding about the differences and similarities between people. A 'festivals planner 2007' poster is used to celebrate some festivals of the local community, such as the Chinese New Year and Diwali, to promote children's understanding of customs and beliefs.

The childminder has a good understanding of learning difficulties and disabilities. She has liaised with outside specialist agencies in order to meet the specific individual needs of children. In addition, she has attended a course on 'inclusion' in order to include all children in all areas of play.

Children are constantly praised for good behaviour, which helps to boost their confidence. Plenty of age-appropriate and stimulating play opportunities throughout the day help to channel children's energies in a positive direction. Children's artwork is displayed as part of enhancing their self-esteem and enabling children to take pride in their achievements. However, there is a missed opportunity in not allowing older children to be involved in developing their own 'house rules' as part of enabling them to learn how to manage their own behaviour with peers.

Children benefit from positive relationships between their parents and the childminder as this promotes good communication and trust. Appropriate consents are maintained to promote the safety and welfare of children. All parents are invited to read the policies and procedures, which are kept in a folder by the childminder, to ensure that they are happy with arrangements and in agreement with her practice. In addition, a complaints procedure is displayed together with the certificate of registration. The childminder shares information with parents verbally at the end of each day, and written information is provided for younger children, to ensure continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are able to move around freely and independently through the creative organisation of space and resources within the childminding home. The childminder demonstrates a positive

attitude to her own personal development and she has attended training courses to enhance her childcare practice.

Good routines are established to ensure that children are secure and the childminder effectively organises her time to ensure that children take part in a wide variety of experiences including activities outside of the home.

Documentation is well organised, maintained and kept up to date. This supports the efficient and safe management of the provision and promotes the welfare, care and learning of children.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was recommended that the childminder attends a first aid course.

The childminder has now attended a first aid course for the welfare of children under her care.

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 complaint record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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):

- carry out regular fire drills
- expand behaviour management strategies to allow older children to be involved in managing their own behaviour.

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