

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	303498
Inspection date	25 February 2008
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 has been registered since 1993. She lives with her husband and two children aged 16 and 10 years. They live in a semi-detached house in Greetland, a village close to Halifax. The family live close to local amenities, such as schools, shops and a park. The childminder uses the ground floor of the premises for childminding purposes, which includes a dining kitchen, a lounge, and a downstairs toilet and hand washing facilities. There is a fully enclosed garden to the rear of the property for outdoor play. The childminder is currently caring for five children under eight years and three children over eight years on a full and part time basis. The family have pets, which includes dogs, a cat, ferrets and birds of prey.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment. There are clear hygiene procedures in place which are followed to promote the children's good health. For example, the children are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times, such as after toileting, after contact with pets and before lunch. The children can clearly explain that they have to wash their hands

to keep them clean. They sometimes independently wash their own hands. This demonstrates clearly that they know what to do. They each use their own individual hand towel, which helps prevent any possible spread of germs. They recognise the towel by the colour and their name. The children's welfare is supported appropriately as there are clear accident, sickness and medication procedures in place. However, not all medication records have been countersigned by the parents after medication has been administered and not all records state the time the last dose was administered, although this has been discussed with the parents prior to giving the medication, in order to promote the children's good health.

Children are encouraged to eat healthy and nutritious meals. For example, the children eat minced beef pie with carrots, broccoli, cauliflower and potatoes at lunchtime. After their meal the childminder encourages the children to look at pictures of the food that they have eaten, in order to work out how many fruit and vegetables they have eaten that day to make up the five a day to keep them healthy. The written menu that is available depicts a range of other healthy food options, such as fishcakes with peas and sweetcorn, yogurts, fruit, lasagne and chicken. In addition, the children drink healthy drinks, such as water and sugar-free juice. The children's dietary requirements are met through working closely with the parents.

The children's gross physical skills are developing well and they receive lots of fresh air. For example, the children can move around the environment independently indoors and with supervision outdoors. They can use the play tent and push and pull different sized toys indoors. Outdoors, they use a range of equipment in the garden, such as sit-and-ride toys and again resources that they can push and pull and a sandpit. Children also visit the local park. They also visit organised indoor play areas where they can use other equipment to develop their physical skills, such as slides and climbing equipment. This means that they have lots of opportunities to have exercise and, therefore, start to develop their understanding of the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well maintained environment indoors and outdoors where they can move around independently and stay safe. For example, the children use a range of well maintained resources that are stored safely and, therefore, risks are minimised. There are clear fire evacuation procedures in place which are practised regularly with the children. This means they are starting to learn the importance of fire safety awareness. In addition, children are supervised effectively by the childminder during the activities.

The children's safety is protected and promoted as the childminder has a clear understanding of how to safeguard children and whom to contact if concerned about a child. In addition, the appropriate written guidance is available and there is a written policy in place to further support the children. Children benefit as there are clear emergency procedures in place to support the children if required.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a bright environment where they can select toys that are suitable for their age and stage of development and that support their learning effectively. For example, they are learning about different shapes as they make them in the play dough, such as a circle. They talk about the colours during this activity. The children are also learning to recognise

different colours through other daily events, such as during the bathroom routine. The children receive good individual attention from the childminder. For example, they are developing their communication skills through discussion, and the childminder asks them effective questions to aid their thinking skills, such as 'What type of fruit is this?' and 'What shape is it?'. Children respond appropriately and answer the question. The children are also learning about different types of fruit during this activity, such as pineapple. They relate well to the childminder during the daily activities and routines. The children demonstrate this as they confidently communicate with the childminder and ask questions.

There are clear written activity plans and records kept on the children's development which supports the children's learning effectively. However, the documentation does not always make it fully clear how the plans formally link to the 'Birth to three matters' framework. The children are learning to count and they select books from a good quality and varied range. Children can use musical instruments, play games and construct developing a variety of skills. They are learning to recognise that words have meaning. For example, they recognise their name on their coat peg and in the bathroom. In addition, the children are developing good self-care skills through washing their hands independently and eating their dinner appropriately.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to behave positively through receiving praise and reassurance from the childminder through everyday activities and routines. For example, they receive praise when washing their hands independently and whilst making shapes in the play dough. In addition, the children receive good individual attention which promotes their self-worth and they respond well. Children also benefit as the childminder works closely with the parents to meet any specific needs they have in order to support their care and learning effectively.

The children's overall welfare is promoted well as the childminder works in partnership with the parents. For example, the parents receive daily verbal information regarding their child's care and routine. In addition, the parents also receive a useful and informative range of written information about the provision and their child through the policies and procedures and through written plans of activities available to support them.

There is a clear written equal opportunities policy in place which promotes anti-discriminatory practice and promotes the children's welfare. Children are learning about differences in people positively through using a range of resources, such as books and toys. Children are also involved in celebrating different festivals, such as the Chinese New Year. For example, the children experience different cultural foods and help with making nan bread.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a well maintained and safe environment where they can move around between rooms and explore, supported by the childminder. Children benefit from using a good overall range of resources and planned activities, which they enjoy and that aid their learning effectively. They benefit from learning to develop a good understanding of living a healthy lifestyle which is promoted through healthy eating and fresh air. The childminder has started the process to complete background checks on any persons recently turned 16 years old living in the house. However, this process has not yet been fully completed.

The written documentation is available and is effective, in order to promote and maintain the welfare of any child and keep parents well informed about the service provided. For example, there are a good range of written policies available. The children benefit as the childminder has attended a range of courses to support the children, such as first aid, food hygiene and the autism spectrum. 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 the childminder was asked to review the contact details on the complaints procedure. The childminder has now reviewed the complaints procedure, which is detailed and provides clear information for the parents. This improves the procedures to support children and to provide information to the parents.

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 good. 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):

- update the medication records to include the time the last dose was given and the parents' countersignature
- further develop the planning of activities in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework
- complete the process started for any outstanding background checks on persons over 16 years old in the household.

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