

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	311072
Inspection date	24 January 2008
Inspector	Cathleen Howarth

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 registered in 1998. She lives with her husband and two children aged 11 and 14 years in Golcar, Huddersfield. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed back garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. She is currently minding two children. Before and after school care can also be arranged. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children, and she attends the local parent and toddler group and playgroup. Transport is provided.

The childminder has provision for children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The family has two gerbils which live in a cage in the house.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are sufficiently protected from infection and are appropriately taken care of if they have an accident or become ill. Relevant policies and procedures are in place, such as medication and accident records countersigned by parents to keep them informed of their child's welfare. Children are beginning to understand simple health and hygiene practices, such as washing their hands before snack and after using the toilet. The childminder maintains good standards of hygiene and cleanliness in areas used by children to promote their good health.

Children are learning about healthy lifestyles when the childminder talks to them in age-appropriate ways to encourage them to eat healthily and play outside. There is suitable provision to support children's overall physical development in the back garden and local park. Children rest and sleep according to their needs and in accordance with parents' wishes.

Children are sufficiently nourished. A children's favourite is sandwiches and sausage rolls. Fresh fruit is available each day. Food preparation procedures are sound.

The childminder obtains relevant information from parents with regard to special dietary requirements. A daily diary is well maintained for early stage children, to keep parents informed of their intake of formula milk and other routines, such as nappy changes, activities and the child's disposition.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe environment which is appropriately risk assessed before they arrive. They play with resources and equipment that are of suitable design and condition, which the childminder checks regularly for repair and replacement. Children are learning to avoid accidental injury when they help the childminder to tidy up, and they know not to play behind closed doors. Children are kept safe on outings when they hold the childminder's hands and hold onto the buggy. Road safety is consistently reinforced. Relevant documents for the car are available for parents to view, and the childminder ensures appropriate child safety seats and booster seats are routinely used to keep children safe.

All fire safety precautions are in place, and children practise the emergency evacuation procedure to encourage them to act responsibly in the event of an emergency. The public liability insurance certificate is also available for parents to view. Children are appropriately safeguarded. The childminder understands her role in child protection. She knows the procedures to follow should a concern arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children continuously use their initiative when they self-select resources from the toy boxes on the floor. Early stage children are learning to move around in the mobile activity centre. They inquisitively press buttons to make phonic sounds. Rattles are shaken and soft toys are examined. There are limited resources and activities for the very young to develop all their senses through heuristic play by using natural resources. However, children are happily engaged

in planned activities and spontaneous events that generally support their development and learning. Older children are learning to construct towers and make garages for the small world cars.

Children look forward to trips into town. They like playing at the local park where they climb, swing and slide. Children sometimes go to a fast food restaurant for a treat. Their social relationships are appropriately extended when they play with other minded children from different settings.

Children are confident to make decisions, explore and investigate. They enjoy putting jigsaws together to make a park scene, effectively developing hand and eye coordination. They are learning to match numbers, shapes and colours. Later stage children have great fun during role play. They dress up to become a fire officer, princess and builder. They use appropriate props and accessories to support their play and to act out different scenarios. Children have sufficient opportunity to develop their language when they sing along to nursery rhymes. They sit on the childminder's knee at story time. She reads to them and points to relevant pictures, reinforcing specific words to extend their vocabulary. Children also sit quietly on their own to examine and explore picture books.

Children sustain interest in what they do. For example, when they learn how to bake and decorate buns. Babies relate well to their carer when they stretch out their hands to be picked up and cuddled. Older children play board games and are learning to share, take turns and to be kind during their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are fully included and involved. They are beginning to learn about human differences in the wider community, such as disability, gender, culture and ethnicity. There are appropriate systems in place to provide for children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Children are beginning to understand the consequences to their actions. The childminder effectively explains what is right and wrong in age-appropriate ways, and good behaviour is generally affirmed.

Parents receive useful information about the setting at registration. Relevant information is also exchanged on arrival and departure, such as their child's routines and activities. The complaints procedure is fully compliant and available for parents to view.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has a clear sense of purpose and a commitment to continued improvement. She has satisfactory knowledge and understanding of the National Standards including vetting procedures. She has ensured the actions and recommendation raised at the last inspection have been fully addressed.

The childminder generally supports children's health, safety and enjoyment by making good use of her time and by organising space and resources appropriately.

All the required documentation is in place to promote children's care, welfare and learning. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two actions were raised to improve safety. The childminder has since had a new kitchen. There is now safe storage in the kitchen and bathroom. Potentially hazardous substances and other items are now out of reach of children. There is a smoke detector fitted at each level of the property. These measures are in place to promote children's safety at the setting.

A recommendation was raised to improve documentation. The childminder now ensures children's records are countersigned by parents to promote their continuing care.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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):

- continue to extend the range of natural resources and promote activities for heuristic play by using the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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