

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	982085
Inspection date	31 January 2008
Inspector	Alexandra Cole
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 1996, she works with a co-childminder. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children when working alone or 10 children when working with her co-minder. There are currently 10 children on roll that attend for a variety of sessions. The childminder works from her co-minder's premises which is in Holywell Green, near Halifax. There are shops, a school and a playground nearby.

The whole of the ground floor and a first floor bathroom of the property are used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. There is a pet cat at the premises. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean home where good hygiene practices and routines are implemented by the childminder. For example, after changing children's nappies she wipes

the changing mat down. Individual named towels are provided which helps to prevent the spread of infection. This protects children health and helps them to learn about the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Effective systems are in place to ensure pets do not pose a health risk to children. The childminder provides a good example through following strict hygiene procedures. For example, as she uses an antibacterial gel on her hands after changing children's nappies.

Children learn about the benefits of a healthy diet through activities, such as talking about what foods are considered to be 'good and bad' for them. They benefit from continuous hydration because the childminder ensures they have access to water at all times. She has been awarded the 'Cute Fruit Plus' award in recognition of providing a healthy diet for the children. For example, all meals are home cooked and fresh fruit is provided on a daily basis. The childminder has used knowledge gained whilst undertaking this award to ensure children are only provided with water or milk to drink; contributing towards their healthy well-being.

Arrangements for first aid and administering medication meet requirements and all of the procedures are followed correctly. Children enjoy a wide range of activities that contribute towards their good health. For example, they have access to a slide and bikes whilst enjoying outdoor play. If the weather does not permit, children develop their physical skills through activities such as dancing. Children are able to move freely within the home and they have a close relationship with the childminder who is caring and responsive to them. This helps them to feel confident to explore their surroundings and use their bodies to develop physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a home where positive steps are taken to promote safety and keep children safe. The childminder is aware of hazards and able to minimise risks. For example, a fire guard is in place and a safety gate prevents children having unsupervised access to the kitchen. Children are well supervised and are always within her sight or hearing. Safety matting has been laid in the outdoor area to minimise any injuries to children should they fall over.

The childminder is proactive in helping children to learn about fire safety because a fire evacuation procedure is in place and this is practised with the children, ensuring they understand the course of action to take in an emergency. However, the procedures for completing the attendance record are not followed correctly. Children are well protected because the childminder understands her role in child protection and is able to put relevant procedures into practice.

Children's sense of belonging is promoted because the childminder has created a dedicated area in the lounge that displays the current play theme and examples of children's work. The home is maintained in a good state of repair and decoration, and the layout of the furniture provides children with space so that they can play freely. Children are able to independently access toys and equipment from a sound range of resources that the childminder rotates on a regular basis. She ensures they conform to safety standards and checks and cleans them on a regular basis.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder effectively responds to children's interests in order to promote their development. For example, she encourages children to use their imagination when children are

playing in a den made out of the dining chairs. They show an interest in cars so the den is changed into a car where children change the tyres in their make believe garage. She encourages them to learn how things work as she shows children how to work a pop up toy. She gives them help and support when necessary and children delight in their own achievement when they have successfully made the toy work.

Warm and caring relationships are apparent between the childminder and children, contributing towards a child's sense of belonging. She relates well to them and is kind and caring towards them, for example, as she strokes their hair when they are having a rest. They are able to develop their creativity through activities such as baking, making handprints and sticking activities. Children play happily with the childminder, for example, as they thoroughly enjoy building the bricks with her.

Children settle well with the childminder, they are confident and fully involved in their play. They are able to self-select from the sound range of toys and resources, suitable to their age and stage of development. Encouraging their independence and promoting their decision making skills. Children's self-esteem is developed through the childminder's effective use of praise and support. For example, as she praises children for naming the correct coloured brick.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder uses sound strategies to manage children's behaviour, such as distraction and redirection to other activities. Good behaviour is reinforced through praise and encouragement, building on children's self-esteem. Clear and consistent boundaries encourage children to understand right from wrong, helping them to learn how to be responsible and play together harmoniously.

Partnerships with parents are positive. The childminder works with parents to meet the needs of the child. Their needs are met as they follow their daily routine as discussed with parents. The childminder respects parents' wishes and keeps them informed about policies and procedures. Parents are kept up to date with their child's progress through the use of a daily diary as well as informal discussion. This ensures that there is regular information sharing with parents and promotes continuity of care.

Children's individual needs are met well and they are fully included, the childminder values and appreciates all children. Their awareness of diversity is developed through a range of resources representing equality and anti-discriminatory practice. For example, festivals such as Eid have been celebrated and children have access to a range of books and resources reflecting diversity. The childminder knows the children in her care and adapts appropriately to their differing needs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

All of the documentation required for the safe and effective management of children is in place and appropriate. Policies and procedures are used effectively and are well organised. The childminder has completed all of the necessary background checks to ensure all adults living at the premises are suitable to be around young children. The childminder works well with her co-minder and they both equally share responsibility for the care and welfare of the children.

The space and resources are organised well to enable children to participate in a good range of activities. The childminder is proactive in pursuing further training that enhances her childcare knowledge. The required adult to child ratios are met and provide good levels of care and support. In response, children are secure and confident in their surroundings. 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 improve children's safety with regard to smoke alarms and hazards in the bathroom and garden. It was recommended that she improved her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, amended the system for recording when children are in the sole care of one childminder and to record emergency escape practises.

Good progress has been made and safety hazards in the bathroom and garden have been minimised and the childminder has updated her knowledge of child protection through attending appropriate training. Fire evacuation practises are now recorded and a smoke alarm is now fitted on the first floor. Currently children are not left in the sole care of one childminder but appropriate systems are in place to clearly record any instances of this occurring.

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):

- follow the procedures for completing the attendance record correctly.

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