

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY280411
Inspection date 23 January 2008
Inspector Kaldip Kaur Chaggar-Brown

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 has been registered since March 2004. She lives with her young son. The family home is situated in the Bramley area of Leeds. The whole of the ground floor and first floor bathroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder takes children to and collects them from local schools. Currently four children are cared for, two are aged under five years and one between five years and eight years. In addition, the childminder also cares for one children aged over eight years. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a range of satisfactory activities that contribute to their good health. They have a satisfactory understanding of personal hygiene practices, such as washing their hands before eating and not putting toys in their mouths. Children are protected from cross-infection as the

childminder undertakes good hygiene practices. For example, she washes her hands before and after nappy changing and food preparation areas are clean.

Children's welfare and well-being are suitably protected as the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. However, written permission from parents with regard to seeking emergency first aid advice or treatment is not in place. The childminder understands how records of accidents and any medicines given are to be kept. Children are cared for appropriately if they are unwell and the childminder asks parents to collect their child to prevent cross-infection.

Daily outings benefit children as they receive fresh air and exercise when walking to school; they also have good access to outdoor play in the garden. Children have suitable opportunities to rest and sleep as they need to.

Children are suitably nourished through a diet which includes vegetable fingers, noodles and fish fingers. Children sit together at the dining table for meals and snacks. Drinks offered to children include water and fresh juice. The childminder obtains suitable agreements from parents about food and drink to be given prior to children being cared for.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure and safe environment. There is sufficient space for children to play by themselves or together. Children independently use the bathroom and they have easy access to the outdoor play area. The premises are welcoming as play equipment is readily available when they arrive.

Furniture and equipment are safe and suitable for children's use and meets their needs. The childminder purchases new equipment as needed, for example, she recently purchased a baby bouncer. Children have access to a satisfactory range of play equipment. This includes role play equipment, construction toys and art and craft materials. The childminder ensures that toys are checked regularly to ensure they are safe. Young children's sensory skills are not fully stimulated as most toys are made from plastic materials.

Risks to children are minimised as the childminder takes appropriate safety precautions. This includes keeping cleaning chemicals out of reach of children. On outings children learn about road safety through discussions with the childminder. Children are kept safe on the premise, they are unable to leave the house unsupervised as doors are kept locked.

Children are appropriately protected from harm because the childminder has a suitable understanding of child protection. She understands what to do if she has any concerns about a child. However, the childminder does not have the latest information from the Local Safeguarding Children Board regarding child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy coming to the childminder's, they are settled and take part in a suitable range of stimulating activities and experiences. These include visiting local parks, looking at books together and art and craft activities.

Children learn about numbers, colours and shapes through everyday play situations. They develop their imagination through acting out scenarios with dressing up clothes as well taking part in creative activities. Children enjoy making jigsaws with the childminder as well as playing board games.

Children's care needs are met following discussions with parents. Children are supported by the childminder and their self esteem is promoted. Children relate well to others; they play with and alongside other children. Children meet other minded children during the school holidays. Children choose what they want to do and where they want to play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of how children learn and develop and is aware that some children have specific needs. Children share toys and resources with each other as well as play well together. All children have access to activities.

Children benefit adequately from activities which help them value diversity, such as looking at books which depict positive images. Children's understanding of disabilities is not developed as they have no access to suitable resources.

Children understand about appropriate behaviour. House rules are displayed in the kitchen for children to refer to. They understand what is expected of them. The childminder has consistent expectations about behaviour and handles unwanted behaviour appropriately. Children are encouraged to say please and thank you.

Children benefit from a good working relationship between parents and the childminder. Parents are involved in the care of their child and take part in daily discussions about their child. Information, such as dietary needs, is confirmed in writing on children's record forms. Children are collected by authorised persons only. Parents are made aware of the complaints procedure by the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by the childminder who is suitable to do so. The childminder has a suitable understanding of the adult to child ratios and how to maintain these. Appropriate organisation of the day follows children's individual routines, allowing for children to play, rest and eat. The childminder is aware of the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage later this year. Organisation of records is satisfactory and most records are kept up to date. Attendance registers are kept appropriately. Children are settled and well cared for. 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 four recommendations were made. The childminder was asked to practise the emergency evacuation procedure. This is now carried out six monthly. She was also asked to obtain written permission to take children on outings. Children visit local places of interest and permission is included on contracts. The childminder was requested to further develop her knowledge of the child protection procedures. The childminder familiarised herself with

information from Ofsted and the National Childminding Association. A further recommendation was to record exact times of children's attendance. This is now carried out on a daily basis.

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):

- obtain written consent from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure children have play equipment that develops their sensory skills and which promotes children's awareness of people with disabilities
- obtain child protection information from the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

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