

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	311094
Inspection date	11 December 2007
Inspector	Janet Skippins
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 was registered in 1999. She lives with her husband and children aged 16, 13 and eight in Dalton Huddersfield. The dining kitchen, conservatory and toilet on the ground floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks and uses a car to take children to and from local schools. She is registered for five children and is presently caring for five children aged under eight and one child over eight. Children attend on a part-time basis. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very clean and well-maintained environment. The childminder promotes good practice to prevent the spread of infection and keep children healthy. For example, the childminder follows a well written procedure regarding sick children. However, although parents have given written permission for their children to receive medication, they have not signed to acknowledge that this has been done. Children learn about the importance

of personal hygiene through reminders to wash their hands after they have used the toilet. There is also an attractive display which reinforces to children that they wash their hands before eating, after using the toilet, stroking pets, and if they feel dirty or sticky. The children enjoy their meal times when they sit and talk with the childminder. They have a very healthy, nutritious diet of home cooked meals with plenty of fresh vegetables and fruit. Drinks of well-diluted juice, fresh fruit juice, milkshakes or water are provided.

Children rest and sleep in accordance with their individual needs and routines. Regular walks to school, use of the local play area, outings to the play gym and toddler group provide many opportunities for healthy exercise to encourage their physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment where positive steps have been taken to promote their safety. For example, a carbon monoxide detector is in place. Also written records are kept to show that gas appliances are regularly checked for safety. There is ample space to move easily indoors and outdoors and children have opportunities to safely make independent choices about what to play with. They are able to easily select toys which are appropriate to their age and stage of development because the childminder organises resources very well at child height. Children respond well when the childminder reminds them to tidy up their toys so that they do not fall over them.

The children are developing an understanding of the danger of fire, because they talk about emergency evacuations with the childminder before practising them. Precautions are taken on outings, for example when out walking, the children hold the push chair and the childminder's hands. Children are reminded about road safety through a display which shows a photograph of them with a road crossing patrol person on a visit to their toddler group. They are protected from harm because the childminder has a good understanding of safeguarding issues, which she has gained from attending training. She also has a well written procedure, and government along with local safeguarding publications which she can use if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Toys and resources are well organised in clearly labelled boxes so that children can independently select what they would like to play with. Children develop very good levels of confidence and self-esteem by cooperating with the routines which present sufficient challenge. The childminder informally plans a wide range of purposeful and developmentally appropriate play activities. These include making unusual cards and presents as well as baking regularly. Children respond well when the childminder supports them to make models using play dough, which help to develop their design and making skills. Social skills are developing well as children learn to share and take turns with each other and the children they meet at toddler group and the play gym. Children also enjoy interesting outings, for example, walks to see animals and trips to the cinema and theme parks.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed at the setting. They receive support and affection which results in them feeling confident, happy and secure. The childminder treats children with equal concern, respecting their individuality and meeting their needs. The children take part in activities appropriate to their different needs and abilities because the childminder is successful in promoting inclusive provision for them all. The children learn about differences through using resources, such as small world toys representing people using wheelchairs, books and dolls with different skin colours, with the childminder. Children are starting to understand expectations for their behaviour. For example, they know they must wait on the step until the youngest child is harnessed in the push chair, before setting off walking. The childminder gives the children plenty of praise and individual support during everyday play activities. Children are proud when they see their work displayed on the walls in the dining area.

A very good partnership between the childminder and parents ensures they work together to meet each child's needs and ensure their protection. They contribute personal photographs of family events to a record of their children's work which includes photographs of them taking part in interesting play activities. They are able to see well-written policies and procedures which show how the childminding service is run and managed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease in the well-organised setting. This means they are confident and able to initiate their own choices. They are very well supervised and activities are planned and organised to ensure that they receive a high level of attention. There is ample space for the children to play in the dining kitchen and conservatory which opens on to the garden.

Most documentation is in place to promote the welfare, care and learning needs of the children. Children's needs and achievements are shared through regular daily discussion and records of their activities. 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 child protection policy to include procedures if allegations were made against herself or others. This has been given attention and enhances the safeguarding of children.

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 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):

- extend the medication records to include the facility to record the parents' acknowledgement when medication has been administered.

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