

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	303655
Inspection date	19 February 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 1997. She lives with her husband and adult child in Savile Park, Halifax. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed yard for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time, and is currently minding three children. Of these, two are over eight years. The provision includes before and after school care. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children, and she attends the local parent and toddler group and playgroup.

There is provision for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder maintains high standards of hygiene and cleanliness in areas used by children, to promote their good health. Older children understand simple health and hygiene practices, such as washing their hands after using the toilet and before meals. They use antibacterial pump soap and individual hand towels to prevent germs from spreading.

The childminder successfully promotes children's awareness of a healthy lifestyle. She talks to children in an age appropriate way to explain what is good for them, such as physical activity and eating healthily. Children enjoy playing outside in the back yard using ride-on equipment and push-along toys. They look forward to trips to the local park where they play on the swings and slides, and take part in various ball games. They have great fun at the play gym when they crawl, jump and balance in a safe environment. These measures effectively help to develop children's stamina, muscle tone and coordination. Children rest and sleep according to their needs and in accordance with parents' wishes.

Children are well protected from infection and promptly taken care of if they have an accident or become ill. Accident and existing injury records are systematically countersigned by parents to promote children's continuing care. The childminder obtains verbal consent from parents prior to administering medication to children, but she does not obtain this in writing. This is a breach of regulations.

Children are learning the importance of eating healthily. The childminder positively reinforces this by regularly providing a balanced range of nutritional food and drink. Food preparation procedures are fully compliant.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, safe environment which is routinely risk assessed before they arrive. The childminder has good understanding of the need for a balance between freedom and safe limits, and she successfully promotes personal safety. As a result, children have ample choice in where they play because they have learnt boundaries and limits. They fully understand why they should not answer the door unless the childminder is with them.

Children are kept safe on outings when they hold onto the buggy and road safety is continuously reinforced. When children travel on the bus they sit downstairs with the childminder, and they know to get off only when the bus has stopped moving.

Children play with quality resources and equipment that are of good design and condition. The childminder checks them regularly for repair and replacement. Older children tidy up toys to prevent accidental injury. This effectively demonstrates they are aware of their own and other's safety.

All fire safety precautions are in place. Children practise the emergency evacuation plan in order to learn how to take positive action in the event of an emergency. The current public liability insurance certificate is available for parents to view.

Children are professionally safeguarded because the childminder has secure knowledge and understanding of 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 good.

Children access a very good range of resources and equipment, that are used imaginatively to support their overall care and development. The childminder gives high priority to developing children's social skills and independence through interactive play. The childminder knows children learn best from first hand experiences, and she effectively plans and evaluates activities with children and their parents. For example, under supervision, children research activities, like origami, on the internet. They made a crab with eyes out of a square piece of paper by following instructions. This effectively demonstrates their ability to respond well to challenge and persist for some time.

Once a fortnight children self-select books from the local library. They are developing good levels of concentration when they listen carefully to stories, and when they look at picture books on their own. Children have great fun dressing up as a fire officer, nurse and witch. The childminder ensures there are plenty of accessories to go with ethnic costumes, such as scarves and bangles. There are ongoing opportunities for children to develop mathematical thinking when they take part in baking sessions. They are learning to check change when they help the childminder buy provisions at the local supermarket. Children are learning to weigh and measure in addition to pouring, mixing and beating the ingredients. They usually take home what they have made and proudly show their parents what they have achieved. They also grow cress and sunflowers to take home.

The childminder demonstrated high regard for 'Birth to three matters' which is a framework used to support children in their earliest years. Babies are encouraged to use a wide range of natural resources for heuristic play. There is a calm and relaxed atmosphere at the childminder's house.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern, and are fully included and involved. They have developed good awareness of diversity in the wider community, such as gender, ethnicity, culture and disability through relevant resources and activities. There are effective systems in place to provide well for children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Children are courteous and behave well. Minor differences are effectively managed and older children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions. Their good behaviour is consistently encouraged through positive role modelling, meaningful praise and by valuing cooperative behaviour. As a result, children are learning to share, take turns and to be kind during their play. This helps children to develop their self-esteem and respect for others.

Children are well looked after according to parents' wishes. Written parental consent is obtained for various childcare practices, like photographs and outings. The childminder meticulously maintains children's development files to show parents the extensive range of activities available to learn through play, and to record children's progress in all areas. The childminder respects confidentiality and shares relevant information with parents. Parents know how to raise concerns

through the appropriate procedure. The complaint procedure is discussed at registration and is available for parents to view.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has 11 years experience. She is a competent and caring child carer and educator. She has developed a very clear sense of purpose, and a strong commitment to continual improvement which is evident in the positive outcomes for children.

The organisation of space is effective. Daily routines are well established, and children feel secure in a familiar, predictable environment.

Most of the required documentation is in place to promote children's care, welfare and learning. Children's records are stored securely and maintained in an orderly way for parents to view. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection one recommendation was raised to improve documentation. The childminder now has a written complaints procedure which includes the current contact details of the regulator. This is done to enhance partnership with parents.

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:

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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):

- ensure written permission is obtained from parents prior to administering medicines to children.

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