



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	303544
<b>Inspection date</b>	20 September 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Shaheen Matloob

<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 July 1989. She lives in a detached house in the Northowram area of Halifax, situated close to all local amenities. She lives with her husband and two adult children. Childminding takes place on the ground floor of the home in the dining room, conservatory and kitchen. Children have access to the first floor bathroom and fully enclosed garden to the rear of the property. The childminder collects several children from the local school on foot and regularly attends parent and toddler groups.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local

childminding network. The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and currently cares for nine children, seven of whom attend part time.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through well-planned daily routines. Children know that they need to wash their hands to stop them from getting 'dirty' after playing outdoors or using the toilet. Children begin to show a good understanding of how to keep themselves healthy, safe and free from germs.

High levels of hygiene are maintained throughout the home, the childminder consistently wears disposable gloves for nappy changing and the use of anti bacterial cleaner on surfaces sustains such levels of hygiene to prevent the spread of infection.

Children have good opportunities to engage in physical activities and exercise to remain healthy and active. Children follow and actively demonstrate a range of 'exercises' and 'dance moves' whilst watching television. Children are physically challenged and a well thought out outdoor area offers children an exciting and interesting range of outdoor toys and large equipment, which promotes children's jumping, riding, balancing and co-ordination skills. Older children have a good understanding of what contributes towards being healthy such as healthy food and exercise. Children also invent various 'acrobatic' moves, which they have had sufficient time to practice and perfect. Younger children have free space to move around freely and enhance their physical development. The childminder knows children well and children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs.

Children's individual dietary needs are well catered for in accordance with parent's wishes. Regular drinks are provided and kept within easy reach, which means that children can access drinks independently as and when needed. Effective arrangements are in place for younger children who are unable to ask for a drink. Children benefit from meals that are healthy and nutritionally balanced to promote their well-being, healthy growth and development. Snack times are used to maximise opportunities for social interaction and promote children's growing independence.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Positive steps are taken to promote safety and to keep children safe. Children learn and understand how to keep themselves and others safe because the childminder talks about potential dangers indoors and on outings. The childminder views this as fundamental to children's welfare and development. Safe and well-maintained furniture and equipment meet the varying needs of children and the stage of development. Daily checks ensure that they remain safe and suitable for their purpose. A creatively organised environment allows children to move safely and

younger children try new activities in a safe and supportive environment. For example, children learning to crawl have enough room to do so.

A secure knowledge of children's developing abilities and continuous risk assessments ensures that potential hazards are identified and good safety measures are put into place. For example, the childminder has identified the need to use a safety gate at the bottom of the first floor stairs as they pose a potential risk to children who are crawling. A soft impact surface in the outdoor area reduces the risk of accidental injury.

The childminder's supervision skills achieve a good balance between freedom and safe limits. Children are kept safe but also have the freedom to explore which promotes their growing independence. Robust external security measures and effective fire safety keep children and the premises safe.

The childminder's secure knowledge and experience ensures that children are protected and their welfare is paramount. A copy of the local child protection procedures is available and the childminder is able to follow these in order to protect children.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are interested in the broad range of purposeful activities, which provide good levels of challenge and are appropriate for children's ages and stage of development. Children participate in art and craft activities and make good use of a wide range of materials and resources to make collages and drawings. They acquire new skills and extend their vocabulary as the childminder extends and develops children's language and communication through effective 'what' and 'why' type questioning, which means that children become confident speakers. The childminder generally observes children to assess the stage of development children are at and plans activities to support the next steps for children's individual play and learning.

Children are motivated and show a keen interest in creative activities as they begin to differentiate between colours and recognise basic primary colours. Children use them to identify everyday objects. For example, "yellow like the sunshine". Children begin to explore texture and colour when choosing collage materials and mark making resources for their drawings. Younger children enjoy treasure baskets and play supported with a range of discovery and musical toys, which promote hand eye co-ordination and fine manipulative skills.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their individual needs are met through listening and valuing parents contributions. The childminder ensures that all children are treated as equals and spends time talking and playing with children.

Good use is made of resources that represent diversity and are free from discrimination. These are freely available to all children. All children take part in a range of activities, which promote some special events and festivals. However, opportunities for children to increase their understanding of the wider world with regard to festivals and customs are limited.

A positive approach to managing behaviour helps children to understand right from wrong. Clear and realistic boundaries are set and children know what is expected of them and display high standards of behaviour. A busy and stimulating environment helps children to stay occupied and prevents them from losing interest. Unwanted behaviour is managed using sensitive methods and children are provided with appropriate explanations to help them understand why certain behaviour is unacceptable. Good behaviour is valued and encouraged through appropriate praise and recognition of achievements, which promotes children's self-esteem and helps them to become confident.

A positive partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well-being and development. The childminder actively seeks parents' views about their children. Parents have access to a good range of policies and useful documentation; they are kept well informed about their child's progress and activities through daily verbal communication and individual activity records containing children's work, photographs and general observations.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Space and resources are organised effectively and enhance children's care and learning. Children are secure and confident and have a caring relationship with the childminder who promotes their well-being and supports children consistently in order for them to achieve their full potential. The childminder liaises with parents to find out about their individual needs and share two-way information.

A good commitment to enhancing her knowledge through regular training ensures that the childminder continuously reflects and improves her service.

Clear policies and procedures which are robust and individual to the service, and all legally required documentation to promote the welfare, care and development of children is well-maintained and up dated regularly. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend very well.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous inspection, the childminder was required to acquire a fire blanket and complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children. The childminder has improved fire safety. She has purchased a fire blanket and an extinguisher, both which are cited in the kitchen. She has also completed relevant first aid training for infants and young children in order to keep children safe and protected.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

### **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):

- provide activities which increase children's understanding of the wider world with regards to festivals and customs.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)