

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY346547
Inspection date	26 June 2008
Inspector	Liz Whitehead
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 2007. She lives with her husband and two children, aged 13 and seven months in Batley. The ground floor of the property is used for childminding purposes and there is an enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The family has two cats.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently caring for three children on a part-time basis. They are taken and collected from school and access local groups. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and holds the National Nursery Examination Board qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about good personal hygiene through consistently washing their hands before snacks, meals and after toileting. Clearly displayed signs remind them of the importance of this. Additionally, the childminder ensures that wet wipes and hand wash gel are readily available

on outings. To ensure that floor coverings remain as clean as possible for children to play on, outdoor shoes are consistently removed when entering the home.

Children have many opportunities for exercise, fresh air and outdoor activities when walking to school, playing in the garden, at soft-play gyms and at the park. They regularly practise large physical movements when sliding, swinging and playing football. Children recognise when they are thirsty and freely access drinks from their individual cups and sports bottles.

Mealtimes are a relaxed occasion with children sitting and eating together at the table. The childminder sits with them and develops their social skills through encouraging them to talk about their day. Healthy and varied meals are provided in accordance with the children's individual dietary requirements and their parents' wishes. Children enjoy eating fruit, vegetables and salad. They learn about foods which are good for them through everyday activities and themes, such as 'healthy eating' and 'exercise'.

The childminder quickly recognises signs of tiredness in young children and they sleep according to their individual requirements, routines and their parents' wishes. The childminder encourages parents to bring children's own comfort toys to provide familiar items to make sleep time a comfortable and relaxing experience for children of all ages.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

A first aid box is readily accessible in the home and one is always taken on outings to ensure that any minor accidents are dealt with quickly and appropriately. To ensure that parents can be contacted at all times, a land line, mobile telephone and written contact details are readily available.

The childminder carries out regular risk assessments and appropriate safety equipment is in place to minimise hazards to children, including a fire guard and safety gates. However, they are able to reach the bolt on the bathroom door. The childminder effectively raises children's awareness of safety issues through regular discussions and activities. For example, this week, the children are learning about road safety.

Children are very familiar with the emergency evacuation procedure. It is practised regularly to ensure that they are fully aware of how to leave the home quickly and safely. Additionally, it is prominently displayed in each room to ensure that all parents and visitors are familiar with the routine.

Children are suitably protected as all parents are made aware of the childminder's responsibility regarding child protection. She has a written policy and literature to refer to regarding the signs and symptoms of possible abuse. This ensures that any concerns are managed in accordance with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. Additionally, the childminder has attended training to increase her knowledge and confidence in dealing with any issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children greatly benefit from high quality interaction with the childminder who is interested and values what they say and do. The children share a warm and trusting relationship and form close bonds with the childminder. They have plenty of fun with lots of affection and cuddles.

Children are skilful communicators and many activities promote their language development. They sit close to the childminder as they spontaneously clap and sing songs to her. They enjoy independently selecting books to read both at home and during their weekly visits to the library.

A good range of activities appropriately cover the areas of learning and incorporate many child-led activities. The children really enjoy bus trips to places of interest, such as museums. They learn about the natural world and gardening and are growing their own tomatoes and cress which encourages them to eat healthily.

Children concentrate well and spend a long time playing with the treasure basket. They are really interested as they place various objects into different containers and listen to the sounds that they make. Children are encouraged to express themselves creatively through a number of resources, such as music, singing, painting, gluing and using play dough.

Children learn basic mathematical concepts through a number of activities including playing with shape sorters. They discuss the shape and colour of the pieces as the children place them in the holes. They learn early number skills as the childminder instinctively counts the toys as they play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's differing needs are met effectively as the childminder records information in their individual 'all about me' books. She knows the children well and encourages them to make decisions by self-selecting toys and equipment. The childminder encourages children to progressively become independent through daily activities, such as young children feeding themselves.

Relationships with parents are good and the childminder operates an 'open door' policy where they are welcome to visit at any time. The childminder has implemented a number of strategies to keep parents fully informed regarding their children's care and development. These include daily discussions, supplemented with written information and compiling profiles of children's development. Additionally, a range of information leaflets are readily available for parents to take.

Children learn about their community through walks in the area and visiting local groups. They receive positive images of the wider world through daily play and a variety of resources, such as dolls, dressing up and small world play. They also develop an awareness of a range of cultures through celebrating a number of festivals and trying foods from around the world.

Children develop a positive self-image through the childminder continually praising them in their play. She encourages children to be really proud of their achievements, such as when they successfully complete the shape sorter. The childminder has accessed training and consistently follows the managing children's behaviour policy to ensure that children know what is expected of them. Young children follow the childminder's clear boundaries and happily help tidy the toys away.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is enthusiastic about her role and demonstrates a commitment to developing and furthering her knowledge and skills. In addition to the required training she has attended a number of courses and has begun to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage into her daily planning and practice.

Children are very settled and confident within the childminder's home due to the effective settling in procedure. They are cared for in a child-orientated environment, with a selection of toys available in labelled storage boxes for them to independently access. Pictures, posters and children's art work are thoughtfully and attractively displayed.

Relevant checks have been completed on all appropriate adults. Effective systems protect children from persons who have not been vetted, as they are not left unsupervised. Parents are well informed about the childcare service as they all receive a copy of the handbook, including the childminder's policies and procedures.

The register of children's attendance is accurately maintained with their times of arrival and departure and clearly shows when children are at school. The certificate of registration, first aid certificate, menus and the planning are prominently displayed for parents to view.

All the required documentation is in place, although confidentiality is not sufficiently maintained as some records name other children. The childminder limits the number of children that she cares for to ensure that she fully meets their individual needs at all times.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

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.

Since registration 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 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):

- ensure that children cannot become locked in the bathroom
- ensure that confidentiality is fully maintained on all records.

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