

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY358318
Inspection date	30 April 2008
Inspector	Rasmik Parmar

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 has been registered since July 2007. She lives with her two children aged nine and 12 years in the Boothtown area of Halifax. There are schools, shops, parks and access to public transport in the local area.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. There are currently three children on roll. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

The whole ground floor, first floor bathroom and children's bedroom is available for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The family have a rabbit and guinea pig.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and hygiene is well promoted because the environment that children use is clean, tidy and well maintained. Children are beginning to develop an understanding of the importance of good hygiene and personal care as the childminder encourages them to wash their hands with soap after using the toilet and before eating. Children dry their hands on cloth towels. Also, as part of maintaining good standards of hygiene the rabbit and guinea pig have regular worm and flea treatments.

Children's health is well maintained as the childminder has an effective policy on sickness. Parents are made aware of communicable diseases and the period of incubation, during which time their child must not attend. An effective system for administering medication, for treatment given after an accident and for notifying parents appropriately, ensures that children's health is of primary importance. However, there is no permission obtained from parents for seeking emergency medical treatment.

A variety of nutritious home cooked meals are provided for children for tea, including meat and vegetables. The childminder prepares the food in accordance with parental wishes and children's dietary requirements. Children are provided with plenty of fluids and have independent access to a jug of water or juice from the kitchen table. Children are involved in preparing foods and have made foods from different cultures, such as onion bhajis as part of building their awareness of the wider world.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home where potential risks are identified and minimised so that they remain safe and feel confident. The layout of the home is welcoming to children and well designed, which enables them to develop their independence as they move freely between the lounge and dining room. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe, stimulating and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Children are kept safe due to a combination of close supervision by the childminder, weekly risk assessments, talking to older children about road safety and wearing florescent bands on the way to and from school. Good security precautions also contribute to child safety, as the front door remains locked at all times and children are only released to parents.

Children's welfare is safeguarded to a good standard as the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of her role in protecting children. She is aware of possible signs of abuse or neglect and the procedures to follow should any concerns arise. She has up to date information on safeguarding children. The childminder has recently attended a course on child protection to further her knowledge for the overall welfare of children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and confident in an environment where they are able to develop their confidence and independence. The childminder has a weekly plan of activities, which is adapted in order to meet the varying interests of children. The plans take into consideration children's views and ideas and during their short stay before and after school, children participate in lots of fun activities, in a relaxed environment.

Children participate in creative arts and crafts activities, role play, have controlled access to the Internet, read from a good selection of books, play educational games and are involved in baking. For example, children made pizzas on their own, with very little supervision, putting tomato puree on the base and added a variety of toppings. Children cut strawberries and added fresh cream. Later children sat down at the table, well mannered, and ate pizzas and jacket potato, followed by strawberries and cream.

The rear garden is also used for physical play activities with a good selection of resources. Hence, children are able to develop confidence, channel their energies in a positive direction and develop their physical skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals as the childminder uses information from parents to meet the specific needs of the child. Equality of opportunity is promoted as all children are able to play with the full selection of activities without discrimination. In addition, the good selection of resources which portray culture and learning difficulties or disabilities promote an understanding about the differences and similarities between people. The childminder celebrates festivals of the wider community to promote children's understanding of customs and beliefs.

The childminder has a good understanding of learning difficulties and disabilities and is able to use her experience in the care of children.

Children are constantly praised for good behaviour, which helps to boost their confidence. Plenty of age-appropriate and stimulating play opportunities help to channel children's energies in a positive direction. Also, children's artwork is displayed as part of celebrating their achievements and helping to increase their self-esteem.

Children benefit from positive relationships between their parents and the childminder as this promotes good communication and trust. Appropriate consents are maintained to promote the safety and welfare of children. All parents are invited to read the well written policies and procedures, to ensure that they are happy with arrangements and in agreement with her practice. The childminder shares information with parents verbally at the end of each day to ensure continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder prepares and organises herself, her time and her premises well for the care of children. Children are assured plenty of attention from the childminder because she involves

herself fully in their play and care all the time they are with her. Her home is very child friendly and toys and resources are stored where children can see and get to them easily.

The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude to her own personal development and she has attended training courses to enhance her childcare practice.

Documentation is well organised, maintained and kept up to date. This supports the efficient and safe management of the provision and promotes the welfare, care and learning of children.

Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

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 provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaint 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):

- obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical treatment.

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