

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY365421
Inspection date	09 June 2008
Inspector	Shazaad Arshad
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 was registered in 2007 and lives with her husband who is a co-childminder and their child aged three. They live in the Brighouse area, close to Halifax and Huddersfield. The whole of the ground floor is used for minding, including the bathroom, and there is an enclosed area for outdoor play. At present, there is one child on roll aged three, who attends on a part-time basis. The home is close to parks, schools and shops.

The family has a pet cat.

The childminder takes and collects children from school and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment that is very clean and well maintained. They are kept healthy and free from infection through the childminder's understanding of the need for

effective health and hygiene practices. For example, equipment and toys are cleaned on a regular basis with anti-bacterial spray. Children wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet; their understanding of the reasons why are discussed at the child's level of understanding. For example, the childminder explains hands need to be washed because of germs which could make them unwell. Children are kept free from infection through parents being requested not to bring children who are unwell; any suffering from sickness or diarrhoea are asked to keep children away for 24 hours to ensure the health of other children.

Children's good health is adequately promoted through a varied and nutritious diet which includes plenty of fruit, pasta and vegetables as well as regular drinks of water. Their dietary needs are well met and mealtimes are always a social occasion. Children have a clear understanding of the benefits of healthy eating through simple discussion with the childminder. For example, eating good food keeps us healthy.

Their enjoyment of exercise is well promoted through daily walks and regular visits to the local park where they have access to a designated play area. Periods of rest and relaxation are included in their daily routine.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with a setting that is safe and secure. They are kept safe through effective policies and procedures. For instance, children are only released into the care of their parents or authorised persons. Children benefit from the childminder's good understanding of her role and responsibilities and the high priority given to ensuring they are kept safe at all times. For example, in the case of an accident or the need for emergency treatment the childminder has established a good support network that ensures children are cared for appropriately until collected by their parents. However, the children do not participate in regular fire evacuation procedures.

Children have access to a range of toys which are safe, suitable and purposeful; they are checked on a regular basis to ensure they are safe to play with. Children show good understanding of keeping themselves safe in the home through following simple rules of the home, such as not running or climbing as either of these actions can cause someone to get hurt.

Children are kept free from harm through the childminder's adequate understanding of issues and procedures surrounding child protection; she understands she has a legal duty to act in the best

interests of the child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and show good concentration when playing. They have access to a variety of interesting resources which help to develop their learning. These include toys for role play, jigsaws, as well as materials, such as crayons and paints, to develop children's creative skills. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of her role in promoting children's learning. For example, children's understanding of colour, shape and number is well promoted through appropriate questioning and reiteration, for example, when using building blocks, children are encouraged to name the colours and shapes.

Children have a good understanding of right and wrong which is well promoted through reinforcement and simple discussion. They enjoy warm, caring relationships with the childminder. Children receive appropriate support and encouragement, which raises their levels of self-esteem and confidence. They attend a local playgroup where regular interaction with other children helps to promote their understanding of right and wrong as well as the reasons for taking turns and sharing.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and treated with equal concern. Their understanding and awareness of their needs and those of others is well promoted through simple discussion and constant reiteration. For example, children are reminded to be kind and treat others as they would wish themselves to be treated. Regular visits to the local childcare settings help to promote social skills. Children benefit from the positive attitude of the childminder with regard to promoting equality of opportunity. They are encouraged to participate in all activities, and similarities and differences between children from other cultures are discussed in an open and honest manner. However, a lack of multi-cultural resources limits children's understanding of diversity and the wider world.

Children are well behaved. The clear, consistent boundaries and positive strategies implemented by the childminder promote well children's understanding of what is, and is not, acceptable behaviour. For example, children receive lots of praise, good behaviour is always rewarded and inappropriate behaviour discussed. The childminder respects and values the views and wishes of parents. She works closely with parents to ensure that children's needs are well met through shared information. Parents are informed about the provision through the policies and procedures used. Parents receive verbal and written information about their child's progress.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for in a generally well organised, warm and caring environment. All required documentation is in place which ensures the smooth and efficient running of the provision. The implementation of effective policies and procedures, such as emergency medical treatment and the release of children into the care of authorised persons only, ensure children are kept safe and protected at all times. Children are provided with a range of toys and resources which promote their learning.

Children are well cared for through the childminder's adequate knowledge and understanding of how to keep children healthy and safe. Their individual needs are met through the close working partnership between the childminder and parents. The childminder is committed to furthering her personal development through completing the childminder training and attending courses on child protection.

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

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 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 satisfactory. 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):

- introduce a variety of multi-cultural resources to improve children's understanding of diversity and the wider world
- ensure children practise the fire evacuation procedure

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