



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	303551
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 November 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Frances Turner

<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 1994. She lives in a village on the outskirts of Halifax, West Yorkshire. The home is shared with the childminders husband and two children. The family have a pet cat. The childminder collects children from a local school.

Childminding takes place in the ground floor lounge and kitchen/dining room, the first floor bathroom facilities and the fully enclosed garden to the rear of the property. All amenities and schools are located within walking distance. The childminder is registered to care for six children and currently has five children on roll. Children

attend after school and during school holidays.

The childminder holds a National Vocational level 3 qualification, is a member of the National Childminding Association and Calderdale's Children Come First Network.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health and hygiene is successfully promoted. The school aged children attending understand and follow good practice for hand washing and discuss reducing the spread of germs. They enjoy and benefit from the continual healthy snack provision. This encourages them to recognise and meet their own needs for hunger and thirst, promoting healthy eating habits. The childminder ensures fresh fruit or vegetables are provided as part of the daily snack, alongside continual fruit juice drinks. Agreements with parents, used in practice, ensure dietary needs are met.

The childminder maintains and shares with parents individual health records for all children. The record sharing procedures ensure that both parties are fully informed of any child's illness, accidents or medication requirements. First aid training meets requirements.

Children receive good daily physical exercise. They walk between the childminder's home and school and use facilities at the local park. They enjoy playing team games such as football and rounders during fine weather. This promotes their understanding of a healthy lifestyle as well as encouraging muscle development and coordination.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure, welcoming environment. The childminder takes all reasonable steps to reduce hazards to children. She implements safety equipment suitable for the ages of children attending. For example, low level glass is protected with safety film and electric sockets covered. The childminder displays information about the provision within the home and organises accessible toys and equipment. This welcomes both parents and children.

The childminder encourages children to learn about their own safety. They take part in fire evacuation practices and tidy up to reduce hazards. Through daily walks between school and the childminder's home, children learn about road safety. They act sensibly as they walk along the pavement and enjoy sharing the days events through conversation.

Children are protected by the childminder, who updates her child protection knowledge annually. All records and guidance for safeguarding children are fully accessible and confidentially stored.

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

The provision is good.

Children independently enjoy a good range of activities that stimulate all areas of development. They actively engage in the provision available and benefit from the friendly and relaxed environment after school. Children use their imagination to create during craft activities. They use pom-poms, coloured foam and wiggly eyes to create animals and pipe cleaners to make glasses. Children positively interact together, sharing ideas and creations and talking about what they like to do. They are confident, polite and respectful. They use good manners to request or when talking to adults.

The childminder informally plans children's activities and outings. She maintains records of activities undertaken such as photographs and children's pictures. These are shared with parents. She understands older children's need for rest and relaxation and provides an environment to suit. Toys and play provision are high-quality, well organised and labelled to enable children to choose. As a result, children are happy and settled.

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

The provision is good.

Children positively contribute to their time with the childminder. They are independent and identify their own needs. Awareness of diversity is positively encouraged throughout the provision and activities. Children learn about the world in which they live through reference books, stories and crafts. They have explored festivals and celebrations such as Diwali, Halloween and Christmas.

The childminder has extensive experience, understanding and training that underpins the care of children with special educational needs. Although none currently attend, her proactive approach is praised by the local authority.

Children behave well and hold good relationships with adults. The childminder is a positive role model and gently reminds them of simple agreed and consistent boundaries within the home. Children benefit from the calm and relaxed environment that encourages them to be independent. They have established friendships and interact positively during play.

The partnership with parents is good. Extensive written information is shared through a well-organised portfolio. Parents are informed of the childminder's training and qualifications, terms and conditions, references, policies and adults in the home. Extremely positive feedback from parents is gathered through questionnaires, discussions and thank you cards. The childminder and parents complete all required information for children in her care. Although a facility to log complaints is maintained it is not fully accessible for parents.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are cared for by a practitioner who fully understands good quality childcare and how to encourage children's development. She attends extensive training courses and shares her very good practice with other childminders, through the local authority network mentor scheme. The childminder regularly revisits training courses previously attended to ensure her knowledge is fully up-to-date. For example, child protection training is attended annually and the introduction to childminding practice course has recently been completed to enable support for new childminders. The childminder has attended training in the Birth to three matters framework although no young children currently attend.

The childminder makes best use of her time, space and resources within a highly organised environment. Adult: child ratios positively support all children attending.

Documentation, including many individual written policies and procedures, are extremely well-organised. The childminder colour codes documentation according to the information contained and uses this for easy reference and accessibility. Her excellent organisational skills ensure all documentation is well presented, displayed and exceeds registration requirements. All are fully confidential and accessibly stored.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to complete a number of recommendations relating to children's safety. The childminder now holds an appropriate first aid certificate and ensures all required information is included on accident reports. The childminder attends annual child protection training courses and holds extensive information for guidance when safeguarding children from abuse. This significantly increases children's safety.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004. 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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<b>WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?</b>
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### **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):

- make the complaints log accessible to parents

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)