



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	510375
Inspection date	18 January 2006
Inspector	Helene Anne Terry

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 has been registered since 1998. She lives with her husband in a split level semi-detached bungalow in Bradford, West Yorkshire. The childminder cares for children with two assistants and occasionally another childminder. Areas of the home used for the children include the conservatory, dining area, lounge, kitchen and bathroom on the main floor of the property, plus a play room on the lower ground floor. The rear garden is used for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time, however, when minding with assistants and or co-childminder can take up to 12

children. At present they have 9 children on roll between the ages of 1 and 9 years; most of whom attend for various sessions throughout the week. The childminder transports children to and from the local school. The family have 2 dogs, 4 rabbits and 5 birds.

The childminder regularly attends toddlers groups and is registered to provide overnight care for two children as required. She 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 a clean and well maintained environment where effective procedures and practices ensure that children's physical, nutritional and health needs are adequately addressed. The childminder provides satisfactory support and guidance to ensure that children develop an understanding of hygiene, such as encouraging them to wash their hands after toileting and before eating. Children are protected from cross infection through the use of adequate procedures and practices, such as the use of individual wipes, hygienic nappy changing procedures, and the regular washing of toys.

Children are developing satisfactory eating habits; they have access to drinks throughout the day and benefit from balanced nutritious snacks and meals, including lots of fruit. Children have access to a bowl of fruit in the play area. This promotes children's health and well being. Although biscuits and crisps are given to children, these are kept to a minimum. Children are also beginning to understand about food that is good for them and individual dietary needs are fully considered to promote their well being.

Children enjoy a satisfactory range of physical activity, which contributes to their good health. They enjoy dancing, walking, going to parks and playgroup.

Documentation to protect children's health is in place such as accident and medication records. However, written permission from parents to seek emergency treatment for children has not been obtained for all children attending.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children move around safely and freely in a secure environment indoors and outdoors, where risks are minimised because the childminder takes the necessary precautions to keep children safe and secure on and off the premises. However, the glass in the cabinet in the lounge is a potential risk to children, now that they have access to this area.

Children have access to the necessary facilities to promote their development, and

furniture and equipment are well maintained. Children use a good range of developmentally appropriate resources, some of which are easily accessible enabling choice and promoting independence. These are effectively organised, rotated and updated as required.

The children's welfare is appropriately addressed. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues and she holds a current first aid certificate.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the child friendly environment where they have good access to a satisfactory range of activities, which enhances their development in most areas. Planning for activities to extend individual learning and development is not done, however activities and resources provided are specific to the stages of development for the children attending. Children develop very good hand and eye co-ordination skills as they enjoy dressing the dolls; fastening poppers on the clothes and playing with the tools from the work bench. Children happily choose from the range of activities made available for them, in boxes and containers; many easily accessible.

Interaction between the childminder and the children is warm, and trusting relationships have been developed, which increases children's sense of well being and confidence. Children receive lots of cuddles and playful interactions were observed as childminder and children played together. Children are developing good social skills as they learn to share, take turns and use good manners. Children enjoy learning to become independent, when they help tidy toys away, visit the bathroom and peel their own tangerines. Giving children little tasks to do promotes self-esteem and confidence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are effectively met and welfare is promoted through a variety of means including information received from parents at the gradual induction of the child. The childminder has a good understanding of children's individuality and responds well to their needs in respect of hunger, tiredness, likes and dislikes. Children begin to develop a wider understanding about the world and people's differences and similarities. This is as a result of the satisfactory range of resources representing positive images of diversity in society available to them during play.

The childminder has a satisfactory awareness of positive behaviour management techniques to enhance children's well-being and their social development. She speaks to them giving explanations and uses appropriate praise and encouragement, thereby boosting self esteem and confidence. Children, on the whole, play well together, learn to share and take turns.

Children benefit from the satisfactory partnership developed between childminder and parents. They are cared for according to parent's wishes which promote continuity of care. There are effective systems in place to ensure information is shared on a regular basis about the child's progress and daily activities, for example through daily chats. The childminder shares information about her setting verbally with parents. However, there is no stringent complaints procedure in place to ensure that parents are aware of procedures to follow.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises space and resources to meet the needs of the children well; as a result children feel at home and at ease. Children are kept safe due to the childminder's good awareness of vetting procedures for adults having supervised or unsupervised access to the children. Children benefit from there being two adults present during most of the sessions to ensure that adult child ratios are effectively maintained. Most documentation is maintained effectively to meet the needs of the children; apart from written parental permission for emergency treatment. Documentation is filed appropriately ensuring confidentiality and is shared with parents to promote the well being of children. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was required that a number of issues were addressed to protect children and keep them safe. Satisfactory progress has been made. The childminder has attended and completed a first aid course and she has obtained the Area Child Protection Committee Procedures to protect children's welfare. She now ensures that she maintains the correct adult child ratios inline with the conditions of her registration and uses all the space in her home she has available for children appropriately, using her assistants. This ensures children's needs are effectively met.

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.

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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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 to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for their child
- ensure that the glass in the cabinet in the lounge does not present as a hazard to the children
- extend and develop a range of activities for younger children by using the Birth to Three Matters Framework
- develop a complaints procedure for parents information, in line with regulations.

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