



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY301982
Inspection date	30 January 2006
Inspector	Jane Elizabeth O'Callaghan

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 2005. She lives with her partner and two children, aged five and one year old, in Otley on the outskirts of Leeds. The whole of the ground floor and the upstairs bathroom is used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered for a total of four children under eight years old. She currently has one child on-roll.

The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group, is a member of the

childminding drop-in group and takes children to the local park.

The childminder is a member of the National and Local Childminding Association.

The family have a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are provided with an excellent range of activities, both in the home and outside, that promote their wellbeing. There are daily activities that support and develop the children's physical needs. For example, the children have access to music and movement and regular opportunities to visit the local area.

The children are made aware of positive hygiene practices through the effective hygiene routines and facilities provided. They have access to individual small bowls, towels and the childminder has a written procedure for changing nappies, which are shown to prospective parents. There is ongoing monitoring of equipment and toys to ensure that they are kept clean, especially with the younger children. There are clear details in the care and exclusion of sick and ill children to prevent cross-infection.

All children have regular drinks and are aware of the importance of drinking, and have access to their own cups. The childminder offers a variety of regular healthy and nutritious meals and snacks for the children. This ensures that individual children's likes, dislikes, dietary needs and parents requests are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in an environment which offers a well planned area, with good facilities to actively meet the children's needs in a positive manner. The childminder has a very good understanding of safety both in the home and outside. For example, the childminder has safety gates, she regularly practices fire evacuation plans and tests smoke alarms and fire extinguishers. She takes all positive steps with the children to promote safety and prevent accidents in their play, through safe access to the resources. The children have a good awareness of the safety limits, which ensure that they have freedom to take risks whilst learning effectively of dangers and ways to protect themselves.

The children are encouraged to develop their independence through accessing the toys, activities and exploring their surroundings. Risks are carefully assessed to reduce potential hazards and the childminder has written risk assessments which are evaluated regularly. The quality and range of toys and equipment are extremely good and appropriate to the ages and levels of children's development.

Children are extremely well protected by the childminder who has a good

understanding of child protection. She has attended all relevant training and has written policies in place. There are detailed procedures in place to ensure that children's welfare is paramount at all times.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The children are extremely happy and relaxed and they thoroughly enjoy their time with the childminder and her family. The children relate well to each other and they are able to extend their social, physical and learning skills through regular visits to groups in the community and further afield. For example, they visit Harewood House, local parks, childminding groups and local farms. These provide the children with an excellent range of experiences and challenges in interesting settings.

The children are eager to participate. The childminder is sensitive to their individual needs and offers a flexible child-led approach to the activities and resources that they want to access. She skilfully adapts what she offers to ensure that all the children take part. This enables the younger children to be involved in a variety of creative resources, such as water, sand, paints, play-dough and they experience tactile and sensory materials. The children sit with the childminder and share a book, which fosters their listening skills and helps them to recognise things that are familiar to them.

There are positive caring relationships established, which promotes children's confidence and communication skills. The children develop a strong sense of self, which is particularly evident with the toddlers.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder offers the children a range of meaningful resources and activities that promote a positive insight of the wider world, and an awareness of differences. For example, the children celebrate a wide selection of festivals and access a range of resources available, depicting all areas of equal opportunities. The children have regular access to the community which supports her approach. The childminder takes account of all the children's individual needs and this is shared with parents to ensure that they are continually met.

Behaviour is managed in a caring and sensitive way, which ensures that the children have a good awareness of the boundaries in place, as the childminder is consistent in her approach. The children learn to negotiate and take responsibility for their behaviour, especially the older children. Children share and take turns and care for each other by ensuring that the toys they play with are safe and suitable. The children are encouraged to make choices in their play and develop their independence.

There are good relationships with parents which contribute to the children's

wellbeing. Parents views are valued and they are encouraged to visit the childminder before the child starts, so that they can make an informed choice in the care offered. Daily diaries are used with parents to share information regularly and effectively. There are policies and procedures in place which extend the information on the support and care provided. However, the complaint procedure needs to be made available for parents. Contracts of agreements are used effectively and reviewed regularly. The childminder also has an area in the kitchen where she displays the fire-drill book, registration certificate and has a suggestion box.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is well organised and efficient in all aspects of her provision. The children are welcomed into a safe and well resourced environment that benefits their wellbeing. This enables the children to be confident and happy, to initiate their play and learning and to develop accordingly.

There are policies and procedures in place that support the quality of the childminding offered; all documents and records are kept and stored securely and maintain confidentiality.

The childminder has consistently attended training to enhance her skills and knowledge in most areas of childcare. For example, Birth to three, Listening to children and is keen to continue. She has received a lot of advice and support from other childminders, which she has accepted. She maintains a professional approach to her role as a childminder. She is active in her community as a representative of early years childcare provision.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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.

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 the complaint procedure and book is easily accessible for 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