



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	303542
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 April 2006
<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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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 and children in Halifax, West Yorkshire. Children are cared for on the ground floor. An enclosed garden to the back and side of the property is used for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for no more than five children under eight years. She currently cares for nine children under eight years who attend on different days on a part time basis. The childminder takes and collects children from a local school.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's good health is promoted by the childminder through suitable procedures and practice. Effective cleaning within the home ensures that all areas, toys and resources used by children are hygienic. This minimises the spread of germs. Sand pits are suitably covered. They contain clean sand and equipment that all children enjoy exploring. The childminder protects children in hot weather. The use of sun cream and hats, alongside providing shaded areas for outdoor play, ensure children are not at risk from the effects of the sun.

Children are encouraged to learn about personal hygiene through daily routine. They frequently wash their hands after activities and before food. The childminder provides equipment, such as low steps and soaps, to help children carry out hygiene routines independently.

Appropriate measures reduce the risk of infection and meet most requirements for medication and first aid. Accident, medication and emergency records are agreed with parents. Individual health needs are recorded to underpin the care children receive. The childminder's first aid training has lapsed, however, she is booked to attend the next available course.

Children receive a healthy and balanced diet. Most foods provided are freshly prepared and include daily portions of fruits and vegetables. Agreements with parents help the childminder to provide foods that meet individual requirements. Drinks are frequently provided, children choose from fruit juice and milk throughout the day.

Physical activities and fresh air encourages children's awareness of healthy living. They eagerly enjoy the daily opportunities for outdoor play. Children make the most of the large garden when using toys and equipment. They practise riding bikes, using swings and apparatus, jumping on the trampoline and running.

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

The provision is inadequate.

Steps to promote children's safety are insufficient. Most areas used by children are safe. The use of equipment, such as safety gates and cupboard locks, helps to prevent children's access to most of the unsafe or unused areas. However, the childminder is using an unregistered room in the home as an additional play area for children. The room contains a bar with alcoholic drinks and glass bottles that are accessible to children. Inadequate steps have been taken to ensure children's safety in this area.

Children remain suitably safe outdoors and on outings. The large, fully enclosed garden to the back of the home provides vast play space and contains safe, well-maintained and suitable toys and equipment. Consents from parents are used to agree outings, though, permission for transport is not gained in writing.

Children safely access most toys and resources. The childminder organises play provision well to ensure accessibility and safety in most areas of the home. Toys are selected and stored

according to children's age and stage of development. Low-level storage systems enable them to select their own play items. They learn about their own safety through practical activities and daily play. For example, taking part in fire drills helps them to learn about fire safety.

Procedures to protect children from possible harm or neglect are maintained up to date by the childminder. She understands her responsibilities to report any concerns and holds appropriate contact details.

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

The provision is good.

Children are confident, happy and settled. They take a full part and keen interest in the activities and provision for play. Activities and experiences promote child development and progress. Children freely choose from extensively available toys and enjoy daily creative opportunities. Using the Birth to three matters framework, the childminder meets the needs for young children and babies. They receive plenty of hands on experiences enabling them to explore using their senses. For example, they explore sand and water outside, mixing the sand with water to wet it, pouring water using equipment and digging sand with spades. They manipulate dough with their fingers, feeling the texture.

All children confidently communicate. They talk about experiences and anticipate future events, such as, starting school and going on holiday. Young children are encouraged to speak without being rushed. The childminder offers praise throughout discussions and conversations, raising children's confidence and self-esteem.

A very wide range of stimulating activities is enjoyed daily. Children play with pirates and extend play to look for pirates outdoors. They practise writing skills through simple worksheets, count, recognise shapes and talk about colour, complete puzzles and jigsaws, and construct on a large scale. They ride and clean their bikes outdoors, use apparatus confidently and enjoy the freedom to explore. Children's social development is encouraged through regular attendance at toddler groups where young children play alongside their peers in larger groups.

Positive and warm relationships are held between adults and children. Many verbal interactions, shared equally amongst children, provide good support for learning. Children use good manners to request and when receiving. They like to share their play with others.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Agreements for care between the childminder and parents establish sufficient professional relationships, in most cases, through which appropriate care is provided. Parents are suitably informed about the setting and happy with the care children receive. Written policies, daily verbal conversation and daily records enable effective communications with most parents.

Children learn about the world in which they live through the provision of toys, resources and activities. Activities linked to children's own celebrations and festivals are explored through arts and crafts. All play provision is accessible to children regardless of gender.

Strategies for positive behaviour work in practice. Children understand expected behaviour and consistent house rules, such as removing shoes after playing outdoors and tidying up toys that they have finished using. They positively respect adults and are polite. All children cooperate during play and good friendships are established.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

A suitable and trained adult cares for children. The childminders' knowledge and understanding of the requirements of the National Standards is not implemented effectively in practice. She has not notified the regulator of a change of use within the home. Documentation, for most children, meets requirements for registration with the exception of permissions to transport. Written records are adequately organised on the premises to maintain confidentiality and to keep children safe on outings. However, the childminder does not hold records for all children for whom a childminding service is provided.

The time, space and resources are suitably planned to benefit children, including taking children on outings and to local groups to meet others. Children receive plenty of adult interaction and attention during their time at the setting. Registers of attendance, used daily, demonstrate that adult-child ratios are met. Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to keep a record of individual children's development and progress. The childminder has implemented a very informal system to show children's achievements and progress through examples of pictures drawn, pieces of writing and creations made by children. She is trained in and uses the Birth to three years framework to ensure the provision meets the needs of babies and young children. This, alongside the childminder's knowledge of individual children, satisfactorily encourages children's progress.

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

There are no complaints to report. 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

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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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that the bar, glass bottles and alcohol is made inaccessible to children
- ensure that all required details are held for all minded children
- ensure that Ofsted is informed of any significant changes

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)