



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 303595
Inspection date 09 March 2006
Inspector Stephanie Joy Bennett

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 inadequate - enforcement action. 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 1995. She lives with her husband in Halifax. The whole of the ground floor is used for minded children. An enclosed garden is available for outdoor activities.

A maximum of six children may attend at any one time. There are currently six children on roll, of whom one is aged over 8 years. The childminder's husband occasionally assists with childminding.

The family have a pet dog. The childminder takes and collects children from the local schools and nursery. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Adequate attention is given to maintaining children's hygiene habits as they wash their hands after toileting and their noses are wiped when required. However, they do not always wash hands before meals, so they do not develop consistent personal hygiene skills. The bathroom sink is presently unavailable for use, so children wash their hands in the kitchen sink, while standing on a chair, which hampers their independence. Children eat at tables which are cleaned before-hand and sickness policies are verbally shared with parents, to ensure that the spread of infection is minimised.

Children eat meals and are offered drinks which meet their dietary needs and help promote healthy eating, such as fruit, pasta and cheese. They sit at the dining table together for meals, but during snack-times are allowed to wander around with food, which restricts their development of social skills.

Children develop a positive attitude to exercise, as they play in the spacious garden with a variety of equipment, which helps them to climb, balance, crawl and run. They kick and throw balls which develops their coordination skills. Children occasionally visit the local park and indoors, they can dance to music and play "What time is it Mr Wolf", which further increase opportunities for physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Appropriate steps are taken to ensure that the home environment is safe and secure for children. For example, safety gates and socket covers are used to help minimise risk. The home is well supervised as children can be seen playing in the lounge on a screen monitor, when the childminder is in kitchen. However, on occasions, the childminder cares for four children under the age of five years. This is a clear breach of regulations and compromises the children's safety and well-being.

Equipment is appropriately maintained and suitable for the ages of children being cared for. It is stored safely so that children access this easily and promotes their independence.

Records relating to children's safety and welfare are inadequately maintained. The childminder does not keep accident or incident records, so they are not properly shared and signed by parents. Children do not have an awareness of evacuation procedures, because the childminder has no procedures in place to be followed in the event of a fire.

The children's overall welfare is inadequately protected as the childminder demonstrates a lack of understanding of child protection issues. There are no Area Child Protection Committee procedures readily available to refer to, and a signed record of existing injuries is not kept. The childminder has failed to keep her first aid qualification up to date, so children are not properly safeguarded in the event of an accident.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and secure in this environment. Their emotional needs are appropriately met, such as when the childminder cuddles one child on the sofa and reads a story to help her to settle. Children have easy access to resources which are appropriate for their age and development. However, the childminder is often very busy and finds it difficult to ensure all children are included and occupied at all times.

Children enjoy outdoor play, where they can practice their physical skills and explore the environment, for example, they like to dig in a special designated area and search for mini-beasts. One child is proud to show me where they have planted flowers which are growing near the play house. They can be creative as they stick, paint and manipulate play dough. However, there is less available at certain periods to keep younger children suitably occupied, particularly before lunch. This results in a deterioration of behaviour. Younger children have some opportunities to explore sensory experiences as they collect natural materials such as cones and leaves. They play with home resources, such as pots and pans, but there is little available at their level for them to explore freely indoors. The childminder has not yet sought any additional support from the National Childminding Association or accessed training on Birth to three matters, to increase her knowledge and skills for providing activities for children age from birth to three years.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

The childminder has appropriate regard to meeting children's individual needs and ensuring that they are secure in their daily routines. She has reasonable knowledge of their individual and dietary needs through daily discussion with parents. However, not all records relating to the children are available on the premises. This means that records of the children's daily well-being is not managed effectively to meet their needs.

Adequate resources are available, such as books, dolls and dressing up, which helps children develop positive attitudes to our diverse society. However, the childminder does not plan activities which increase their awareness of their own cultures and those of others.

Children's behaviour is poor, due to the childminder's lack of understanding of the ages of children, which is not taken into account when dealing with behaviour. Clear

boundaries and expectations are not consistently reinforced. As a result, children rarely share and older children frequently shout at their younger peers. At certain periods of the day noise levels rise considerably, as they are not well occupied and wait for a long period at the dining table for lunch. Children are not encouraged to be polite, for example, to say please and thank you. This means that they do not develop good social skills and respect for each other. The childminder does not keep a record of significant behaviour incidents to share with parents, such as biting, so they are not clear of the daily care and well-being of their child and her approach to managing behaviour.

Partnership with parents is inadequately managed. Most information relating to their child and activities is shared verbally on a daily basis. However, the childminder fails to share most policies and procedures such as behaviour management, equal opportunities and complaints. This means that parents do not gain enough information about their child's overall well-being and of the service provided. The childminder does not hold a complaints procedure or share Ofsted's contact details, so parents are unaware of how to make a complaint should they have any concerns.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder has appropriate regard to ensuring that all persons in the home are cleared as suitable. However inadequate regard is given to maintaining her conditions of registration. The childminder on occasions, cares for too many children under the age of five years at any one time, which is a breach in regulations. This causes her to be extremely busy during long periods of the day, which means that some children are not suitably occupied and their needs are not met.

Records, policies and procedures are poorly maintained and not shared with parents. This means that the children's daily safety and well-being is inadequately managed and safeguarded.

Space and resources are appropriately organised to allow children to play and choose activities independently. Children may play in the conservatory, or lounge and can be creative in the dining area. They have easy access to a secure outdoor area to increase their physical activity and explore.

The childminder has failed to keep up with the required first aid qualifications to safeguard the welfare of the children. Overall, the needs of the children who attend are not met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to maintain records of the assistant. Although her husband rarely assists her, records are still unavailable for inspection.

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 complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

Ofsted is taking **enforcement action** to safeguard the welfare of children.

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