

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	302604
Inspection date	29 August 2007
Inspector	Rasmik Parmar
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 has been registered since February 1993. She lives with her husband and three children in a fully detached house in a quiet residential area in Bradford, which is close to shops and within walking distance of local parks. The ground floor is available for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. There are currently seven children on roll. Children attend a variety of sessions. The childminder attends a variety of playgroups, toddler groups and activity centres.

The family have a rabbit as a pet.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are helped to stay healthy to a very good standard as the childminder follows daily routines to ensure that children understand the need for personal hygiene. Children wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet, using anti-bacterial liquid soap, drying their hands on individual cloth towels or paper towels. The childminder follows high standards of hygienic when nappy changing babies, wearing plastic gloves to prevent cross infection, disinfecting the changing mat after use and hygienically disposing the nappy. In addition, children brush their teeth regularly and learn about oral hygiene through topic based activities where props such as large teeth and brushes are used to demonstrate proper brushing of teeth. Video tapes from the dentist are also used to visually confirm the ongoing learning.

Children's health is well maintained as the parents are aware of communicable diseases through the childminder sharing the written sickness policy with them. An effective system for administering medication, treatment given after an accident has happened and notifying parents appropriately ensures that children's health is kept of primary importance. Furthermore, the childminder is proactive in contacting appropriate agencies for advice, for example, the childminder requested advice when a stomach infection was spreading in the local schools. She then informed the parents accordingly.

Children's welfare and well-being are closely protected through the childminder being active in keeping abreast with first aid so that she is able to promptly administer first aid in the event of an accident because she has the relevant knowledge.

Children's dietary needs are very well met because the childminder works effectively with parents to ensure that their religious or special dietary needs are well promoted. Their individual preferences are supported, they learn about the benefits of healthy eating and benefit from eating foods from a wide variety of cultures. Children are gaining knowledge and understanding of how food keeps them healthy through well focused activities. They are learning to make the connection between where food comes from and how it is prepared. Children have grown vegetables such as carrots and potatoes in the garden and understand that milk comes from a cow. Children are able to see fruit growing on trees in the childminders garden. Older children help prepare meals and snack for younger children. Children develop a positive attitude to meal times through sitting together at the dining table to eat lunch and snack. Parents are kept informed of foods their children will be eating that day by the childminder writing the menu on a board in the kitchen.

Children's enjoyment of physical activity is fostered through inspiring activities. For example, they visit a range of venues that are of special interest to them. These include visits to farms designed for children where they engage in stimulating activities as well as handling small animals.

Children are encouraged to be active through physical play. Every opportunity is taken to allow children be involved in physical play, either indoors or outside in the garden or parks to release their energies. Their physical skills are further promoted through music, dancing and exercises. Children play with variety of activities such as balls and skipping ropes to promote strength, stamina and hand and eye coordination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are highly involved in a wide range of stimulating activities in a very safe environment. The premises are well maintained and children's enjoyment of the setting is enhanced because space is used imaginatively to encourage their independence and promote their all-round development. For example, the area under the stairs is frequently changed for imaginative role play linked to topic based activities such as 'travel agent' or 'dentist'. Also, the patio door is kept open for children to freely play in the garden with the good selection of equipment such as the large, wooden play apparatus, slide or playhouse.

Children play with high quality equipment, which is well maintained and includes a wide variety to meet the needs of all the age groups cared for. Children's safety is extremely well promoted because the childminder is highly competent at assessing and minimising the possible risks inside and outside her home. For example, all visitors to her home are recorded and a record is kept of cleaning schedules to ensure frequent and systematic disinfecting of toys.

Children are gaining a thorough awareness of how to keep themselves safe. Children's all-round safety is enhanced because the childminder fully understands the importance of teaching children what to do in the event of an emergency evacuation. All children practise regular fire evacuation drills, which are recorded to monitor their efficiency. Children learn how to crawl along the floor away from harmful smoke and to use the nearest exit. The fire evacuation procedures are displayed to remind children of the routine. Furthermore, simplified, pictorial procedures are displayed for younger children. Children are also taught the importance of playing in a safe environment by helping to tidy up so that other children do not fall over toys they have played with.

Children are very well protected from abuse because the childminder has a thorough understanding of the safeguarding of children. She is very knowledgeable about the potential signs and symptoms that would cause concern and retains the correct contact numbers for reporting. This means that she can act quickly in the child's best interest to safeguard their welfare. Furthermore, the childminder actively promotes children to talk about their feelings and any form of bullying they may be facing. Posters on 'anti-bullying' practice are displayed to reinforce this.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy and well settled. They have very good relationships with the childminder who is attentive to their needs and anticipates them accordingly. Children are engrossed in their play and demonstrate lots of confidence and self-esteem. This is promoted very well because children learn to make decisions for themselves from an early age.

Children are engaged in a broad range of highly stimulating activities and spontaneous events. Their creative skills are fostered effectively as their imagination is stimulated through lots of interesting, topic based activities. Their artistic achievements are valued and those creations that children do not take home are displayed in the childminder's house or retained in their progress folders. The children cared for have good relationships with each other and play together across the age range in very stimulating role play.

Children benefit through the childminder's extensive knowledge and a wealth of experience of caring for a wide range of children with differing abilities. Their individual development is successfully promoted through the childminder's use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework as a reference point and for additional ideas.

Children benefit from well organised activities which ensures that age appropriate and stimulating play opportunities are available for them as the childminder has a good understanding of child development and the different areas of learning. Children's language and mathematical skills are continually developed throughout the day in most aspects of play.

Children are inspired to investigate their environment. They learn to sow seeds in the ground and watch them grow into carrots and potatoes. They learn about the life cycle of tadpoles and caterpillars. Children collect frog spawn and watch the development of tadpoles into frogs. They observe caterpillars turn into butterflies and learn about how to nurture them.

The childminder competently follows children's interests, while asking effective questions to further develop the activity. Children are allowed plenty of time to socialise, play together with one another and participate in physical play to release their energies in a positive direction. Hence children are happy, healthy and have developed good social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a very good equal opportunities policy that is very well promoted. Children are valued and made to feel welcome by the childminder who actively shows an interest in their development. Older children are given more responsibility, such as helping younger children, which increases their self-esteem and independence. Children play with resources which promote a multi cultural society in a positive way, such as dolls, books and dressing up clothes. Local cultural festivals are celebrated, such as Diwali and the Chinese New Year. This broadens children's understanding of the wider world. The resources positively portray learning difficulties and disabilities, which are used to help children learn about the similarities and differences that exist between people. However, opportunity is not taken to fully develop children's understanding of learning difficulties and disabilities.

Children benefit greatly from the childminder's professionalism in working with parents. She fully understands the importance of good relationships with parents and keeps them extremely well informed. For example, all children's progress is monitored and their achievements are recognised. Parents are very happy with the provision and comment positively on the wide range of activities their children are involved in through the questionnaires conducted by the childminder. Furthermore, the childminder keeps parents informed about her practice through regular newsletters.

Children learn right from wrong in an environment where their self-esteem and confidence is consistently fostered so that they learn to appreciate the good things about themselves. Children are constantly praised for good behaviour, which helps to boost their confidence. Plenty of age appropriate and stimulating play opportunities throughout the day help to channel children's energies in a positive direction. Children's artwork is displayed as part of enhancing their self-esteem and enabling children to take pride in their achievements. Furthermore, children are involved in developing their own 'house rules' as part of enabling them to learn how to manage their own behaviour with peers.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder's portfolio evidences her commitment to providing good quality care for children. As well as extensive and well written policies and procedures, which are a true representation of the first rate practice of the childminder, it includes many certificates from additional training courses attended. All necessary documentation is completed correctly, is up to date, reviewed regularly and is well organised.

Children's space is organised in a highly effective manner and all resources meet the children's requirements. Individual needs are extensively met through the childminder's attention to each child's routines and requirements. For example, trips and outings either spontaneous or planned ensure that children's needs are complied with.

Children's care is fully promoted through the childminder's approach with regard to confidentiality and children benefit through the childminder's relationship with parents.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was recommended to improve the organisation of childcare by planning the activities for the children.

The childminder has now planned activities for children in order to ensure that a balanced variety of suitable play opportunities are available to children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. 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

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

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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):

- develop further opportunities for children to learn about learning difficulties and disabilities.

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