

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 310888              |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 13 September 2007   |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Marina Anna Howarth |
| <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 satisfactory. 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 1995 and transferred to Ofsted from the Local Authority. She lives with her husband and children aged thirteen and fifteen in Outlane, near Huddersfield. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, with the exception of the bedrooms. There is an enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time. She has five children in total on roll and is currently minding three children under five years during the day, and two children over five years before and after school and in the school holidays. She walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group and takes children to the local library and park. The childminder does not offer overnight care for children. She is a member of an approved childminding network.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean, well maintained home. The childminder actively promotes good hygiene practices to prevent the spread of infection and to keep children healthy. For example, they are encouraged to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before meal times. Each child has their own face cloth which minimises the risk of cross infection. There are effective procedures in place for nappy changing and the childminder operates an exclusion policy for children who are ill and infectious. As a result, children are protected from contracting infectious illnesses.

Children's individual dietary needs are met as the childminder works effectively and flexibly with parents, addressing their wishes. The childminder provides healthy, nutritious snacks and meals comprising of fresh fruit, vegetables, fish, poultry, meat and pasta. Children are encouraged to sit together at the table while eating their food, where they are given opportunities to socialize in a relaxed environment. Older children are given opportunities to develop their independence as they are involved with preparing their own snacks. Children are refreshed as the childminder ensures that drinks are available throughout the day. Each child has their own drinking vessel which is always accessible. Older children are able to help themselves to ready made juice.

Children are able to relax quietly following a busy day at school and provision is made to enable younger children to rest in accordance with their sleeping routine. A separate area of the home is used to ensure privacy and that they are not disturbed.

Children are given daily opportunities to enjoy physical exercise and fresh air which contributes to their good health. They walk to and from school, visit local parks and nature reserves and are able to access a variety of equipment in the enclosed outdoor garden.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment where most risks have been identified and minimised both inside and outside. This is done through the provision of appropriate safety equipment, such as safety gates and potential hazards have been removed. This enables children to move around the environment safely and confidently. They learn about safety through discussions with the childminder. For example, children are being made aware of road safety through discussing and practising the 'green cross code'. They are encouraged to hold the childminder's hand or the pushchair, and older children are permitted to walk ahead providing they remain in her vision at all times.

Older children are developing an understanding of fire safety as the childminder has devised and practised an emergency evacuation procedure. There are smoke alarms fitted to every level and a fire blanket. However, inconsistencies are present as this has not been practised with the younger children which could compromise their safety as possible problems cannot be identified.

The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of her responsibility for child protection in accordance with the Safeguarding Children Board. However, she has not attended any training for a number of years. She has a written policy in place which is shared with parents during the induction process but this does not reflect the changes implemented to the new legislation.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, relaxed and settled in the childminder's home. She spends time talking and playing with children at their level, giving them praise and encouragement. This results in children developing their confidence and increases their sense of belonging. Children are able to make independent choices as they are able to self select from a range of age appropriate toys and resources. These are organised in boxes and located within easy access and rotated on a regular basis. As a result of this, children are content and play happily with their self selected items developing their concentration skills.

The childminder also plans activities to enable children to have opportunities to learn through a variety of experiences. For example, she facilitates visits to the local playgroup and library where children are given opportunities to socialise with their peers. The childminder also organises visits to the park and local nature reserve where they can explore their environment.

Children display a sense of belonging in the childminder's home as they are aware of the location of toys. Their artwork is displayed on the walls which makes the environment warm, welcoming and child focused. Children's individual needs are met as the childminder gives consideration to ensuring that activities on offer are suitable to meet their needs. Older children are issued with their own scrap books where they are able to stick in art and craft samples they have made, photos and write down their thoughts and feelings. However, the childminder demonstrates limited knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework. A close bond is evident between the childminder and the children and she listens and takes an active interest in what they are doing.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are starting to learn about differences in society and the wider community through their play experiences. For example, they are taken on regular visits to the library and the childminder has developed her resources to ensure positive images are reflected in race, gender, culture and disability.

All children are valued and respected as individuals and have their individual needs met well. They follow their normal daily routines which are discussed with parents during the induction process. Parents are issued with an information pack which illustrates information about the setting. However, the complaints procedure contains the wrong information with regard to the regulator's contact details. She operates an open house where parents are welcomed into the setting to have a discussion about their child and observe her in practise.

The childminder implements consistent and positive strategies to manage children's behaviour. She liaises closely with parents to ensure consistency of care is maintained. Explanations are offered to the children as to why certain types of behaviour are not acceptable. Praise and encouragement is used to promote wanted behaviour. This works well as children are aware of what is expected of them.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and content in the setting. The environment is organised to enable children to make independent choices in their activities. This enables them to initiate their own play. The childminder manages her time to ensure the individual needs of children are met. For example, ensuring children arrive to school and are collected on time. She plans her day giving consideration to younger children's rest needs and she ensures children have daily opportunities for exercise and fresh air.

The required documentation for the efficient and safe management of the setting, and to promote the welfare and care of the children, is satisfactorily maintained. The certificate of registration is shared with parents during admission, but it is not displayed at all times. Information concerning children is shared with parents verbally on a daily basis. However, children's safety and well-being may be compromised due to the childminder not holding a current first aid certificate. This is a breach of regulation.

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 requested to devise and practise an emergency evacuation procedure. This has now been completed and is practised every term with the older children. As a result, they now have a good understanding of what to do in event of a fire emergency.

She was also requested to extend resources to promote children's awareness of cultural diversity, disability and gender. Children now have access to a selection of resources which promote positive images of race, gender, culture and disability. The childminder has joined the local library and resource centre and she takes an active involvement in school projects. As a result of this children's awareness of the wider world is developing.

The childminder was requested to extend the range of toys and activities to meet the needs of children under the age of two years. She now has sufficient resources in place to meet the needs of children from one year and above as she will no longer be caring for children under one year.

The childminder was requested to obtain written parental consent for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment. This has now been obtained and, as a result, she is able to act in the best interest of the children should an accident or incident occur.

## **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 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 satisfactory. 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):

- develop knowledge and understanding of child protection in relation to legislation from the Safeguarding Children Board and update child protection policy to reflect this
- ensure that the emergency fire evacuation procedure is practised with the younger children
- develop knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and implement contents into practise
- ensure that a valid first aid certificate is maintained
- ensure that the complaints procedure is updated containing the relevant regulators address and contact number
- ensure that the registration certificate is displayed more prominently.

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)