

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	321883
Inspection date	02 November 2007
Inspector	Maralyn Chiverton
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 July 1997. She lives with her family in Croften, on the outskirts of Wakefield, within walking distance of local amenities. The whole of the ground floor, is used for minding and there is an enclosed area for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for no more than six children under eight years of age at any one time. At present there are five children who attend on a part time basis only. She takes and collects children from school as well as to the local park and places of interest. The childminder attends a weekly parent and toddler group.

The childminder has a number of small pets including a cat, gerbils, fish, rabbit and a tortoise.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are provided with an environment that is clean and welcoming. They are kept healthy and free from infection through the childminders good understanding of the need for effective health and hygiene practices, such as ensuring children follow daily routines to prevent the spread of germs which could cause upset tummies. These include washing hands using antibacterial soap and individual towels as well as tissues and wipes being readily accessible for children to use when necessary. Children have a clear understanding of the benefits of healthy eating, through simple discussion and explanation. For example, the childminder explains that eating healthily makes them grow big, gives them strong bones and helps them to run around faster.

Children are protected from becoming ill through the implementation of a sick child policy which requests parents not to bring children if suffering from any infectious diseases. Regular outdoor play and visits to the local park and play gym improves children's physical development and promotes their enjoyment of exercise. Children are also provided with quiet periods throughout the day for rest and relaxation. Younger children benefit from the shared information between the parents and childminder which ensures their individual needs are well met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a safe and secure environment. The childminder ensures that space and resources are effectively deployed to allow children to access toys and resources which are of a high quality, safe, suitable and appropriate. She risk assesses the rooms and garden prior to the children attending. Children are kept safe through effective policies and procedures, such as lost or missing children. They practise fire evacuation and understand the reasons why they need to evacuate quickly in the event of a fire. However, there is no procedure for identifying any concerns which may be raised during an emergency evacuation.

Children's understanding of avoiding accidental injury is well promoted through discussion and simple explanation. For example, children know not to bounce on the settee as they may fall off and hurt themselves. The childminder has implemented effective procedures for ensuring children are kept safe when on outings. For instance, children learn the Green Cross Code and know whenever possible to cross the road at a pelican crossing and wait until the green man is shown. The childminder carries a mobile phone which has parent contact numbers in as well as a card stating she is a registered childminder should she herself be involved in an accident. Children are kept free from harm through the childminder's very good understanding of her role and responsibility in protecting the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are confident learners who show excellent interest and enjoyment in what they do. They play well together and have very good concentration skills. They are provided with a wealth of rich and varied activities which are fun and significantly enhance their learning in an innovative way. For example, children make ice cream and plant sunflower seeds which they water and care for. They are taken by local transport to places of interest such as railway

museums and local castles. The childminder has a highly comprehensive understanding of how children learn through play as well as enthusiasm and motivation. The childminder knows the children in her care well. She provides everyday activities to promote their understanding of colour, shape, and number, which is then further promoted through being included in focused activities linked into topics, such as recognising colours, opposites and shapes.

The childminder offers excellent encouragement and praise, which raises the children's levels of self-esteem and confidence. She records children's progress through, individual books where pieces of their work with additional comments as well as photographs of themselves at play are included. The childminder uses an exemplary system for monitoring children's progress. For instance, coloured discs are used to identify what a child has achieved which links into the components for the 'Birth to three matters' framework. This allows the childminder to plan the next steps in children's learning which enhances and further develops children's progress. Children have a very good understanding of right and wrong which is well promoted through simple explanation and discussion.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are welcomed and play a full and extensive role in the setting through the excellent high regard the childminder places on children's individuality and her comprehensive understanding of the needs of the children in her care. The childminder provides inspiring and innovative hands on experiences to promote children's awareness and understanding of diversity. For example, children take part in a disability day where they wear blindfolds and use walking sticks to understand what it feels like to not be able to see or walk properly. Children dress up and actively contribute in taking part in celebrating festivals such as the Chinese New Year. For instance, they prepare Chinese food and use chopsticks to eat with.

Children are extremely well behaved and actively contribute in taking personal responsibility for their behaviour. Children with learning difficulties or disabilities benefit from the childminder's highly comprehensive knowledge and understanding as well as her previous experience of caring for such children. She works closely with parents and external agencies to ensure children with learning difficulties or disabilities have their individual needs met. An excellent partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well-being in the setting. Parents receive lots of quality information and receive daily feedback on how their child has spent their time. They feel valued, their views and ideas taken into account. Their understanding of how children learn through play is effectively implemented through the recording of children's progress and information given by the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy confident learners who benefit from a well organised and managed setting which is safe and secure. Their learning is promoted through the excellent use of resources, space and the childminders time. The effective implementation of well written policies and procedures ensure the provision runs smoothly and contributes well to children's safety, welfare and learning. The childminder is enthusiastic, motivated and has a very good understanding and awareness of her role and responsibilities in developing children's learning. She ensures children receive lots of praise and encouragement which promotes their self-esteem well and enhances their learning.

The childminder is committed to furthering her knowledge and understanding of early year's issues through professional training. She has attended numerous courses, which have included equal opportunities, behaviour management, safeguarding children, busy babies and child profiles. This has a significant, positive impact on the care and education offered. The childminder works exceedingly well in partnership with parents who receive very good information about the provision. Parents are encouraged to share any views, ideas as well as personal information to ensure children's individual needs are taken into account. Children's individual records are regularly shared with parents.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the following recommendation was made to improve children's safety; to provide reasonable supervision when older children are playing in the upstairs bedroom.

This recommendation has been addressed as minded children no longer have access to an upstairs room for playing.

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

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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):

- introduce a procedure to identify any concerns which may be raised during a fire evacuation practice.

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