

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	503626
Inspection date	28 January 2008
Inspector	Janet Skippins
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 was registered in 2001. She lives with her husband and children aged eight, seven and one in Dalton Huddersfield. The through lounge/dining room, conservatory and toilet on the ground floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks and uses a car to take children to and from local schools. She is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently caring for six children aged under eight and one child over eight. Children attend on a part-time basis. The childminder has a cat and a rabbit. 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 cared for in a very clean and well-maintained environment. The childminder promotes good practice to prevent the spread of infection and keep children healthy. For example, she wears disposable gloves when changing nappies. Children learn about the importance of personal hygiene through reminders to wash their hands after they have used the toilet or have stroked the pets. The children enjoy their meal times when they sit and talk

with the childminder. They have a very healthy, nutritious diet of home cooked meals with plenty of fresh vegetables and fruit. Drinks of well-diluted sugar free juice, milk or water are provided.

Children rest and sleep in accordance with their individual needs and routines. Use of the well equipped garden, local parks, outings to the play gym and toddler group provide many opportunities for healthy exercise to encourage their physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment where very good safety precautions have been taken. For example, two carbon monoxide detectors are in place. The lounge fire is guarded, although it is rarely used, and there is also a second guard around the television and video. Written records are kept to show that gas appliances are regularly checked for safety. There is ample space to move easily indoors and outdoors and children have opportunities to safely make independent choices about what to play with. They are able to easily select toys which are appropriate to their age and stage of development because the childminder organises resources very well at child height. Children learn to keep themselves safe through gentle reminders from the childminder, for example, not to climb on the furniture.

The children are developing an understanding of the danger of fire, because they talk about emergency evacuations with the childminder before practising them. These are done more than once each week with children who attend on different days. Good precautions are taken on outings, for example, when out walking wrist straps are used if necessary. The childminder always carries a first aid kit along with parents' contact details in addition to a well written emergency plan, to be used in the event of her suffering an accident. Children are protected from harm because the childminder has a good understanding of safeguarding issues. She also has a written procedure, however, it does not include the latest information regarding the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Toys and resources are well organised so that children can independently select what they would like to play with. For example, school children can choose board games, which are appropriate to their stage of development, from a very well organised walk in cupboard. Children develop very good levels of confidence and self-esteem by cooperating with the routines which present sufficient challenge. The childminder informally plans a wide range of purposeful and developmentally appropriate play activities. These include craft activities, such as making a puppet theatre, as well as baking regularly. Babies respond well when the childminder supports them to use pull along toys, which help to develop their physical skills. Social skills are developing well as children learn to share and take turns with each other and the children they meet at toddler group and the play gym. Children also enjoy interesting outings, for example, to see farm animals, ten pin bowling and swimming. Photographs of children enjoying the activities along with records of work are stored in a book for each child. This is given to parents when children leave the setting.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed at the setting. They receive support and affection which results in them feeling confident, happy and secure. The childminder treats children with equal concern, respecting their individuality and meeting their needs. The children take part in activities appropriate to their different needs and abilities because the childminder is successful in promoting inclusive provision for them all. She is experienced in caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. The children learn about differences through using resources, such as small world toys representing people using wheelchairs and books with the childminder. Children are starting to understand expectations for their behaviour. For example, they know they should be kind to each other and share toys. The childminder gives the children plenty of praise and individual support during everyday play activities. Parents of babies are provided with detailed information regarding food, sleep and nappy changes.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease in the well-organised setting. This means they are confident and able to initiate their own choices. They are very well supervised and activities are planned and organised to ensure that they receive a high level of attention. There is ample space for the children to play in the through lounge/dining room and conservatory, which opens on to the garden.

Most documentation is in place to promote the welfare, care and learning needs of the children. Children's needs and achievements are shared through regular daily discussion and records of their activities. 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 given three recommendations. One was to consider keeping records on when gas appliances have been checked; this has been given attention. She was also asked to ensure all low glass was safe and inaccessible to children. Since then the childminder has moved home, so this is no longer applicable. Therefore, children's safety is enhanced. Lastly, she was asked to update the behaviour management policy to include strategies which could be used if required. This has been given attention resulting in parents being provided with clearer information.

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 good. 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 the child protection policy to include the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures.

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