



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY250351
Inspection date	09 June 2005
Inspector	Elizabeth Welborn

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in December 2002. She lives with her husband and two daughters aged nine and four years, in the north of Leeds, West Yorkshire. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding , five children under five years during the day and four children under eight years around school hours. She also minds four children over eight years. All children attend on a part-time basis. The childminder takes and

collects children from nursery and primary schools in the area.

The childminder holds the Cache level 3 Certificate in Childminding Practice. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and of the local Childminding Group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children experience a wide range of outdoor activities, which helps to support their general good health and stimulates their development. They particularly enjoy visits to the adventure play area at Harewood House, where they can run, jump, swing and climb. At home they have a good selection of outdoor toys and play equipment to choose from and can play safely in the fully enclosed garden. All children join in enthusiastically with the outdoor activities. The childminder has a good knowledge of child development and encourages the children to set their own limits as they develop new skills. She knows the children very well and provides appropriate support for each child.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm and welcoming home. They follow good routines of personal hygiene, washing their hands before and after meals, after using the toilet and messy play. The childminder explains to them why this is important. Children's accidents are dealt with appropriately and carefully recorded for parent information. The childminder keeps her first aid qualification up to date and ensures that she has first aid equipment with her at all times.

Children are learning about healthy eating and are provided with a wide range of healthy and nutritious foods. The childminder discusses the children's dietary requirements with their parents and takes their wishes and the children's choices into account. The children enjoy independent access to drinks at the childminder's house and drinks are routinely taken on outings.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Risks of accidental injuries to the children are minimised as the childminder has a very good awareness of potential hazards and has made her home safe for children. The children are well supervised at all times and supported appropriately. The childminder provides a good balance between allowing the children to explore and setting safe boundaries. Children are learning to recognise potential dangers, when the childminder explains why their actions might lead to accidents. They learn about road safety as they go on outings in the local community, where wrist straps and reins are used for the younger walking children.

Children receive a very warm welcome, to this child-friendly environment. The house is clean, warm and well maintained. The childminder is always ready with appropriate

toys and activities. There is an excellent selection of toys and play equipment, suitable for children of all ages. These resources are clean, well maintained and well organised, mostly in the conservatory and dining room. All resources are rotated to maintain the children's interest and provide them with good stimulation.

The children's welfare is very important to the childminder. She has attended child protection training to ensure that if she has concerns about the children, she knows what to do and who to contact for advice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's home. They are eager to attend and look forward to their day. They relate to the childminder particularly well and enjoy a very wide range of activities covering all areas of play and learning. The children are encouraged to develop independence by making choices about what they want to do. They enjoy choosing from the numerous home based activities organised by the childminder. They also enjoy some free play using the excellent resources available. The current group of school age children mostly choose art and craft activities after their day in school.

During term-time, the younger children have the opportunity for large group play, at their weekly visits to the local childminder "Drop-In" and at a local Toddler Group. Various other outings to interesting places are included in the daily plans, especially during school holidays which develops their awareness of the wider environment.

Children play very well together and they understand the need to share and take turns. They enjoy dressing up and role play activities, which stimulates their imagination. They all benefit from the childminder's excellent interaction, as she supports their activities and stimulates their language and natural curiosity.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are confident, independent and make choices for themselves. They have excellent relationships with the childminder, who knows them very well. She is aware of their likes and dislikes, recognising and valuing them as individuals. The children learn about the wider world, through the activities and resources available to them. They have books, dressing up clothes, jigsaws, dolls and play people to promote their awareness of ethnicity, gender and disability, in a positive way. Children also enjoy celebrating a variety of cultural and religious festivals.

Children benefit from the excellent relationships, built by the mutual respect shared between the childminder and their parents. Information is exchanged every day, so that they can work in partnership to meet the children's individual needs. The childminder keeps the parents well informed of the children's activity and development. Parents of babies are given written information about their child's daily

routines of; food intake, nappy changes, sleep patterns and activity. The childminder has some basic written policies, which she shows the parents, although these do not include a policy for managing the children's behaviour. Children are familiar with the basic house rules, but have not helped to devise them. The childminder provides children with clear and consistent guidance and they mostly respond by behaving very well.

Children who have special needs are welcomed and fully included. The childminder seeks professional advice to ensure she meets their needs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are welcomed to this clean, tidy and well organised environment. The children are able to access activities and resources freely, to extend their own play and development. The days are particularly well planned to allow time for organised activities, free play, meals, rest and outings. This helps to keep the children happily occupied and ensure that their needs are met.

The childminder has policies and procedures in place, some of which are in writing. They are used very effectively and most are shared with the parents. This helps to keep the parents informed about the provision and their child's development and activity. The childminder has a good knowledge of the National Standards and all the required documentation is in place. The childminder ensures that documentation is always safely stored where confidentiality can be maintained.

Children and parents benefit from the childminder's enthusiasm and commitment to her work. She continues to take advantage of training opportunities and has recently completed the Cache Level Three Diploma in Childminding Practice. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, it was recommended that the childminder devise a policy for sick children. She now has a policy which she has put in writing, so that she can easily share it with the parents to help protect children from the spread of infection. She was also recommended to provide resources and activities to promote the children's awareness of ethnicity and disability. The children are now able to learn more about the wider world, by celebrating a variety of festivals during activities and playing with a suitable range of resources.

The childminder was recommended to develop her knowledge of the Area Child Protection Committee guidance. She has since attended a child protection training session and now knows what to do if she ever has concerns about the welfare of a child in her care. The childminder was recommended to develop the way she shared information with the parents of babies. She now records the baby's food intake, nappy changes, sleep routine and activity, in a book which parents take home for reference.

These help to enhance the care provided for children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- devise a policy for managing children's behaviour, to share with the parents and encourage the children's involvement in the setting of house rules.

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