

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY283776
Inspection date	28 August 2007
Inspector	Ingrid Szczerban

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 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 2004. She lives with her partner and two children aged seven and 10, in the Riddlesden area of Keighley, in West Yorkshire. The front room is used by children with toileting facilities on the first floor. The garden is currently unsuitable for outdoor play and there is a dog in the household.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently caring for two children on a part-time basis. She attends toddler groups and visits local attractions with the children regularly. The childminder walks to and from a local school to take and collect children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about simple good health and hygiene practices as part of the day's routine. For instance, they wash hands after using the toilet and before eating. Children stay healthy because the childminder follows appropriate health and hygiene guidelines. Children are protected from

cross infections because they use individual hand towels. The childminder acts in the best interest of children when they are sick. She rarely administers medication and does not care for children when they have any contagious diseases. All accidents are recorded satisfactorily. However, the childminder does not have written consent from all of the parents, to seek any necessary emergency medical treatment or advice for children.

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate supply in order to meet their needs. These include healthy and nutritious foods, such as fresh fruit for snacks. The children respond well to meal time routines and sit at the table to eat. Children rest and sleep according to their individual needs so that they remain healthy.

Robust physical activity is enjoyed by children. They regularly walk to and from school which helps to build their stamina and develop a sense of control over their bodies. Children learn to run, climb, pedal and balance at the toddler groups and on visits to parks. The garden is not currently suitable for children's use, however, satisfactory arrangements are made for children to be physically active indoors. They play skittles and love to dance to music.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have sufficient space to move around in a secure and safe environment in the home. The risk of accidental injury to children is minimised as all necessary precautions are taken to keep children safe on and off the premises. The gas fire is protected, all electric sockets are covered and a safety gate prevents children's access to the kitchen. The childminder teaches children about road safety and implements effective procedures on outings, such as holding hands and using reins. Children readily state that they must 'be careful on roads'.

Good quality toys and resources are provided for children that are appropriate for their ages and safe to use. Children are learning how to keep themselves from harm. Children have free access to their toys as they are stored at child-height, this fosters their independence and decision making skills.

The childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues as she has attended training. She has written procedures to follow provided by the Local Safeguarding Children Board with contact telephone numbers to use, should the need arise. Therefore children's welfare needs are addressed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have warm trusting relationships with their childminder, they are happy, well-settled and receive plenty of reassuring cuddles. Children benefit from regular routines planned around their needs which contributes to their emotional well-being.

Children experience a range of activities both inside and outside the home which enables them to make steady progress in their development. For example, regular visits to toddler groups promotes large physical skills and extends the children's social skills. Children express their creativity through song and dance and using a variety of craft materials, such as crayons, paints and glue. Children enjoy books and listening to stories which helps to develop their literacy skills. Younger children point eagerly to familiar animals and make the associated sounds.

Children are confident speakers, they talk as they play and the childminder fosters language development well. She is tuned in to the individual speech patterns of younger children and asks questions to extend their use of language. Regular outings to toddlers groups, local attractions and to parks helps children to learn about the world around them. Exciting outings are arranged during the holidays, these include trips to the zoo and riding on a steam train.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children begin to appreciate similarities and differences and develop positive attitudes to others through using toys and books that promote aspects of diversity. The festivals and customs of different cultures are introduced to children through suitable activities, thereby raising their awareness of different ways of life. Suitable arrangements would be made to care for children with learning difficulties, should the need arise.

Children are well behaved. They are kept occupied and receive high levels of individual attention from the childminder. Good use of praise and encouragement builds children's self-esteem and they are confident and self assured. The children get on well together, they are encouraged to share and older ones help the younger ones.

Children benefit from the positive partnerships that are established with parents. They are happy and settled with the childminder. The childminder records full details about children before they start, thereby promoting continuity of care and ensuring that children are cared for according to parent's wishes. Daily chats with parents ensures that they are informed about their child's progress.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Space is organised sufficiently well to meet the needs of the children, so that they are able to initiate their own play and learning. Routines are organised effectively to meet children's needs and they are kept safe due to the childminder's good awareness of vetting procedures for adults. Children receive good levels of individual support, time and attention from the childminder who maintains the correct adult to child ratio. The childminder has attended training courses, such as child protection and behaviour management, to enhance the service she provides for children.

All required documentation is kept. The registration certificate is displayed, the register is accurate and up to date and the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. Personal information relating to children is stored confidentially in individual plastic wallets. However, the documentation is not sufficiently well organised for the childminder to be able to easily locate specific information on request.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection recommendations were made regarding documentation, child protection procedures, accessibility of resources for children and fire safety.

The childminder has taken appropriate steps to meet all the recommendations in order to safeguard children's welfare and promote their independence. A written sickness policy has been devised and is shared with parents. The childminder has improved her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues by attending training and obtaining the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance which is shown to parents. The childminder requested a visit from the local fire department and acts on their advice regarding fire evacuation procedures and the testing of smoke alarms. A new storage unit has been acquired in order that children can now independently access more of their toys.

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):

- improve the organisation of documentation
- request written consent from all parents for the seeking of any necessary emergency medical treatment or advice.

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