

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY289618
Inspection date	09 November 2007
Inspector	Rasmik Parmar
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 2004. She lives with her husband and two children in a semi-detached house in Wibsey, Bradford, which is close to shops and within walking distance of schools. The ground floor and first floor, except the main bedroom are available for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. There are currently five children on roll. Children attend a variety of sessions. The childminder attends a variety of playgroups.

There is one cat and one dog as family pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are helped to stay healthy to a very good standard as the childminder follows daily routines to ensure that children understand the need for personal hygiene. Children wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet, using anti-bacterial liquid soap, drying their hands on individual cloth towels or paper towels. The childminder follows high standards of hygiene when nappy changing babies, wearing plastic gloves to prevent cross infection, disinfecting the changing mat after use and hygienically disposing of the nappy. In addition, the childminder frequently cleans the toys with an antiseptic cleaner suitable for children. Also, the cat and dog receive regular flea and worm treatment as part of ensuring a healthy and safe environment for children.

Children's health is well maintained as the parents are aware of communicable diseases through the childminder sharing the written sickness policy with them. An effective system for administering medication, treatment given after an accident has happened and notifying parents appropriately ensures that children's health is kept of primary importance.

Children's welfare and well-being are closely protected through the childminder being active in maintaining her first aid certificate so that she is able to promptly administer first aid in the event of an accident because she has the relevant knowledge.

Children's dietary needs are very well met because the childminder works effectively with parents to ensure that dietary needs are well promoted. The childminder has a written menu as part of informing parents of the types of foods their children are eating. Their individual preferences are supported, they learn about the benefits of healthy eating and benefit from eating foods from a wide variety of cultures. Children eat and drink healthily as they enjoy a good range of meals, cooked at home by the childminder. Healthy meals include at least two portions of vegetables and meat. Children eat healthy snacks, which includes plenty of fruit as part of eating five pieces of fruit and vegetables a day. Children actively participate in preparing foods, for example, they learn to mix ingredients for baking, make fruit kebabs and fruit salads, as part of promoting healthy eating. Older children have independent access to drinking water and younger children have their own beakers. Hence, children's nutritional needs are well met, providing them with energy to grow and develop. However, maximum benefit is not taken to further develop children's understanding of where food comes from.

Children are encouraged to be active through physical play. Every opportunity is taken to allow children be involved in physical play, either indoors or outside in the garden or parks to release their energies. Children play with a variety of activities, such as balls and skipping ropes to promote strength, stamina and hand and eye coordination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are highly involved in a wide range of stimulating activities in a very safe environment. The premises are well maintained and children's enjoyment of the setting is enhanced because space is used imaginatively to encourage their independence and promote their all-round development. For example, the dining room is very well organised with a comprehensive range

of resources available for children to play with, such as a wooden home corner, dressing-up clothes rail, boxes full of toys and a good range of books at child height.

Children play with good quality equipment, which is well maintained and includes a wide variety to meet the needs of all the age groups cared for. Children's safety is well promoted because the childminder is highly competent at assessing and minimising the possible risks inside and outside her home. For example, a comprehensive risk assessment is carried out for all areas of play.

Children are gaining a thorough awareness of how to keep themselves safe. Children's all-round safety is enhanced because the childminder fully understands the importance of teaching children what to do in the event of an emergency evacuation. All children practise regular fire evacuation drills. The fire evacuation procedures are displayed to remind children of the routine. An effective system is in place to ensure the continued safety of the children on outings as the childminder obtains prior permission from the parents. The childminder uses safety reins for younger children on outings to ensure their safety. She continues to remind older children of the importance of road safety when walking to school.

Children are well protected from abuse because the childminder has a thorough understanding of the safeguarding of children. She is very knowledgeable about the potential signs and symptoms that would cause concern and retains the correct contact numbers for reporting. This means that she can act quickly in the child's best interest to safeguard their welfare. Furthermore, information booklets and a flowchart of the procedures to follow are displayed for parents to become familiar with the safeguarding of children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy and well settled. They have very good relationships with the childminder who is attentive to their needs and anticipates them accordingly. Children are engrossed in their play and demonstrate lots of confidence and self-esteem. This is promoted very well because children learn to make decisions for themselves from an early age. For example, children self-register as they come in with their named cards.

Children are engaged in a broad range of highly stimulating activities and spontaneous events. Their creative skills are fostered effectively as their imagination is stimulated through lots of interesting, topic-based activities. Their artistic achievements are valued and those creations that children do not take home are displayed in the childminder's house or retained in their progress folders. Children have good relationships with each other and play together across the age range in very stimulating activities.

Children benefit through the childminder's expansive knowledge and experience of caring for a wide range of children with differing abilities as she has previously worked as a classroom assistant, supporting children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Children benefit from well organised activities which ensures that age-appropriate and stimulating play opportunities are available for them as the childminder has a good understanding of child development and the different areas of learning. Children's language and mathematical skills are continually developed throughout the day in most aspects of play.

The childminder competently follows children's interests, while asking effective questions to further develop the activity. Children are allowed plenty of time to socialise, play together with one another and participate in physical play to release their energies in a positive direction. Hence children are happy, healthy and have developed good social skills.

The childminder follows the 'Birth to three matters' framework to suitably plan activities for younger children. She has attended training in this area and completed three modules to help her to record and evaluate her planning, to take into consideration the 'next step' necessary to further develop the child. Profile folders are kept for young children to include photographic evidence with a written description and examples of work produced by children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a good equal opportunities policy that is very well promoted. Children are valued and made to feel welcome by the childminder who actively shows an interest in their development. The very good selection of resources which portray gender, multi-culture and learning difficulties, together with eating foods from many cultures promotes an understanding about the differences and similarities between people. The childminder celebrates some festivals of the local community to promote children's understanding of customs and learning about the wider world. For example, the childminder produced laminated booklets of a high standard on Diwali and on multiple languages, and a welcome poster in multiple languages displayed at the entrance creates an open environment where children of all backgrounds are made to feel at home.

Children benefit greatly from the childminder's professionalism in working with parents. She fully understands the importance of good relationships with parents and keeps them extremely well informed. For example, all children's progress is monitored and their achievements are recognised. Parents are very happy with the provision and comment positively on the wide range of activities their children are involved in through letters written by parents. The childminder shares written policies and procedures with parents before commencing childminding, to ensure that they are happy with arrangements and in agreement with her practice. In addition, parents sign to confirm that they have received the policies and procedures.

Children learn right from wrong in an environment where their self-esteem and confidence is consistently fostered so that they learn to appreciate the good things about themselves. Children are constantly praised for good behaviour, which helps to boost their confidence. Plenty of age-appropriate and stimulating play opportunities throughout the day help to channel children's energies in a positive direction. Children's artwork is displayed as part of enhancing their self-esteem and enabling children to take pride in their achievements. Furthermore, children are involved in developing their own 'house rules' as part of enabling them to learn how to manage their own behaviour with peers.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are able to move around freely and independently through the creative organisation of space and resources. The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude to her own personal development and has attended numerous training courses to enhance her childcare practice, especially with regards to the care of babies and younger children and to the care of children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Good routines are established to ensure that children are secure and the childminder effectively organises her time to ensure that children take part in a wide variety of experiences including activities outside of the home.

Documentation, including comprehensive policies and procedures, is very well organised, maintained and kept up to date. The childminder's portfolio evidences her commitment to providing good quality care for children. This supports the efficient and safe management of the provision and promotes the welfare, care and learning of children. The childminder demonstrates a very good understanding of the National Standards and implements them effectively to promote positive outcomes for children.

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 recommended to follow the procedures for completing the attendance and medication record correctly, make sure that the heater in the dining area is safe or inaccessible and request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder now follows correct procedures for completing children's attendance on a daily basis so that an accurate record is kept for children's safety. She now follows correct procedures for recording medication administered to children as part of maintaining their continued health. She has now removed the old storage heater in the dining area and the new radiator has a guard in front to protect children. She now has written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment for the overall welfare and well-being of children under her care.

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 complaint 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):

- develop further opportunities for learning about being healthy by promoting children's understanding of where food comes from.

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