

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY294728
Inspection date	27 April 2007
Inspector	Dawn Lumb
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 has been registered since 2004 to care for four children under eight years of age at any one time. At present there is one child on roll who attends part time. Minded children have access to the whole of the ground floor and toilet facilities on the first floor level. There is an enclosed back garden for outdoor play.

The childminder lives with her husband and family in Allerton Bywater, Castleford, West Yorkshire. She is a member of an accredited childminding association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean home environment. The childminder adopts good standards of hygiene and promotes effective practice. This prevents the spread of infection and minimises the risks to children's health. For example, young children's soft toys are washed weekly and others are regularly sterilised. Suitable sickness policies and procedures are in place and followed.

Arrangements for first aid and administering medication successfully meet requirements and protect children.

Children benefit from a childminder who works alongside parents to promote continuity of care. Young children's feeding routines are supported and this ensures individual dietary needs are well met. Children are offered regular drinks throughout their stay.

The children's day is well planned and includes regular opportunities for their individual physical development. For example, daily walks in the surrounding countryside. The childminder is a qualified swimming instructor and enjoys taking the young children to the swimming pool. Young children enjoy playing with sensory resources which promote movement and their physical well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and secure environment. They have appropriate access to toys and equipment, which are safe and well maintained. They are age and developmentally appropriate to the needs of the children who attend.

Young children are protected from harm through the childminder's good levels of supervision; she sensitively supports and monitors the children within their new setting. The childminder gives good regard to the security of the premises and provides a fully enclosed secure outside garden area. However, the garden is not sufficiently risk assessed to identify hazards.

Children are appropriately protected on outings through the childminder's clear understanding of how to keep them safe. For example, car seats and harnesses are appropriately utilised. Children are appropriately protected from harm through the childminder's sound knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and the procedures to follow in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well nurtured. The close, caring relationship between the childminder and young children gives them self-assurance and ensures they feel at ease in comfortable and relaxed surroundings. Children benefit from a childminder who is calm, caring and positive. Children's welfare and care are appropriately supported, encouraged and met.

Space is successfully used to allow areas of the home to promote specific types of play and activities. Children's overall development is adequately supported because the childminder provides a suitable selection of toys and equipment. However, there are limited resources to rotate and promote children's next steps. The childminder supports young children's interests through sensory toys and activities. For example, they use body movements to activate sound and vision responses from seating equipment.

Children's social skills are promoted well through the childminder's thoughtful planning to incorporate walks and visits in the local community. Children have good opportunities to interact with others and build on their communication skills. Children develop their interest and understanding of the wider world. For example, they visit the local swimming baths and woods, and take part in cultural activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder's good induction procedure helps children feel settled and secure and gives parents confidence in the care they receive. The childminder's positive approach helps new children settle into the childminder's home environment and to build warm relationships. Individual needs of the children are well met, because the childminder works closely with parents to ensure all relevant and additional information is recorded and respected. For example, child daily diaries are regularly shared with parents and ongoing daily discussions review children's progress and highlight individual needs. This helps to promote continuity of care and child development.

The childminder promotes a very positive attitude to working with parents. Children and parents benefit from the childminder's clear knowledge and support of their individual and personal needs. They share informative feedback through daily verbal communication and children's personal diaries. Children are familiar with the home environment and routines. Children's individual needs are sensitively supported and well met by a childminder who is calm and caring. Relaxed relationships ensue between the childminder and children.

Children learn about diversity through good consideration of fun learning. For example, they participate in cultural days; the childminder introduces them to African dress, music and food, such as Bobotie.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has completed the appropriate training courses and recently begun to put theory into practice with the new children who attend. The young children are well settled in their new environment.

Space is well utilised and adequately organised. Adult to child ratios are very good; they positively support children's care, learning and play. Suitable routines, successful levels of awareness and good information sharing ensure children are happy, secure and their individual needs are met.

The childminder has comprehensive information and documentation to ensure the safe management of the provision and to support the welfare and care of the children. All regulatory documentation is in place and well maintained.

The childminder is committed to training and very enthusiastic to gain further knowledge and understanding of current developments to help promote her childminding practice. For example, she is taking part in the Leeds Quality Assurance assessment to further promote her knowledge and understanding.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 and review risk assessments to ensure the children's safety in the garden area
- further develop toys and resources to allow rotation and extend children's next steps in learning.

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