

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY357041
Inspection date	09 May 2008
Inspector	Helene Anne Terry

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 2007. She lives with her two children aged 10 and nine years in a semi-detached property in Bradford, West Yorkshire. The childminder cares for children with her co childminder. Areas of the home used for the children include the lounge, playroom, kitchen and bathroom on the first floor of the property. The garden is used for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time, however, when minding with her co-childminder can take up to 12 children. At present she has one child on roll aged two years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children participate in a good range of physical activities, which contribute to their good health. The childminder ensures that there are regular opportunities for outdoor activities, such as walks, visits to parks and playing on the local cricket field. They also enjoy playing in the garden

with a range of equipment. This helps the children to develop control of their bodies and improve their physical abilities.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained home, with regular and effective hygiene routines that encourage their independence in personal care, such as washing hands with anti bacterial soap after using the toilet and before meals. Wipes and tissues are to hand in the play areas to further protect children's health. Suitable procedures for keeping records of accidents and medication are kept by the childminder and children's health needs are promoted effectively, by appropriate methods, as detailed in the sickness policy and first aid procedures. Children's individual needs are safeguarded by successful information sharing with parents.

The childminder takes account of parents' wishes and children's preferences when planning the types of food she offers to children. For example, children have access to lots of fruit and vegetables. Children are offered balanced nutritious freshly cooked meals and have snacks through the day consisting of fruit. Children were observed to enjoy a snack of apple, grapes, blueberries and cheese. Drinks are readily available for children in their own cups in the play area and these are replenished to keep children well hydrated. Children are very well supported by the childminder.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe environment where risks are identified and minimised. The childminder safeguards children by implementing very good procedures and being consistent in checking the childminding area before children arrive. There are good safety measures in place and children move safely and confidently in the childminding areas. For example, there are appropriately placed smoke alarms and a fire blanket in the kitchen and dangerous substances are out of reach. Children have good opportunities to learn about personal safety as they practise road safety when on outings. A suitable fire evacuation plan is discussed and practised with the children to ensure they are familiar with the emergency exits and to raise their confidence in the event of a fire.

The childminder has a very good understanding of how to protect children, and recognises that this is her first priority. She is vigilant, aware of the known signs and symptoms of possible abuse and knows the appropriate procedures to follow should she have concerns. She has the local authority contact details in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board. Parents are informed of her responsibility to the children in her care through child protection details on their contracts.

Children have independent access to a very good variety of equipment and play provision. All equipment is in very good condition, clean and very well maintained. Toys are provided that meet children's developmental needs and challenge their learning. These are stored neatly in clear containers on shelves and in cupboards. Children freely access resources from those made available to them.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled in the child friendly environment where they have good access to a wide range of activities, which enhances their development in all areas. The childminder informally plans activities around special events and festivals. Children enjoy lots

of creative activities, using collage materials, paints and dough. They also take part in baking activities, such as making biscuits for Mother's day and baking chocolate crispy buns. Toddlers learn through their senses when they are given lots of tactile experiences by the childminder. For example, they play with treasure baskets containing a variety of natural materials and enjoy the sensory experience of playing with cooked and uncooked pasta. Children also delight in watching and trying to catch the bubbles from the bubble machine.

Interaction between the childminder and the children is very warm and trusting relationships are developed, which increases children's sense of well-being and confidence. Children receive lots of cuddles and playful interactions take place. Adults are actively engaged in the children's play and learning, supporting the development of their language and curiosity with open-ended questions and positive encouragement. Children have many opportunities to develop their social skills as they meet up with other children of different ages during everyday play and activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a suitable range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. Children have access to toys and equipment, such as multicultural story books and dolls that show people from different ethnic family groups and the customs and cultures of other countries. Children are valued and respected as individuals. They behave well and have a good awareness of boundaries and acceptable behaviour. The 'house rules' are displayed and consist of statements, such as 'We share, respect our toys and play nicely together'. Children are secure and happy; children approach the childminder confidently for reassurance before returning back to play. This builds their sense of security and sense of belonging. Children's individual needs are fostered well. The childminder collects information from parents to ensure that all children receive appropriate care. Although the childminder has not cared for children with learning difficulties and disabilities she expresses a keen interest in this area. Discussions reveal that the childminder is proactive in identifying individual needs of children in her care.

Children benefit from the childminder's good relationships with parents. She welcomes parents to the setting and has time to discuss their children's day, involving them directly in their children's care and development. Parents are updated verbally and by a daily diary regarding the day to day care of their children to ensure that the successful exchange of information impacts positively on the children's happiness and security. The childminder has a written agreement with parents that sets out the expectations of both parties as to the care of the children and business arrangements. They access her policies and procedures and can view photographs of their children and the activities that they do.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are safe, secure and happy in a stimulating environment. They are confident to initiate their own play and learning, are fully engaged in activities and receive appropriate help and support from the childminder. Children are kept safe due to the childminder's good awareness of vetting procedures for adults having supervised or unsupervised access to the children. The childminder uses her time well to ensure that children receive appropriate adult attention and this ensures that children feel secure and confident in her care. The environment, both indoors

and outdoors, is organised flexibly so children are able to make choices and decisions about what they would like to play with and how they would like to spend their time. The childminder has attended some training courses to support her knowledge and skills, including first aid, treasure baskets and 'Birth to three matters.' She is committed to improving and developing her knowledge and understanding of childcare and development.

The childminder has a good range of documents that are shared with parents to keep them informed about the provision. These are implemented successfully in the daily routines and impact directly on the continuity of the children's care. However, the certificate of registration is not clearly displayed. 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 complaint 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:

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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):

- ensure that the certificate of registration is displayed when actively childminding.

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