

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY361405
Inspection date	20 May 2008
Inspector	Shazaad Arshad

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 2007. The childminder lives with her husband and two children aged seven and five years in the Scholes area of Cleckheaton, on the outskirts of Bradford and Huddersfield.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes and there is a first floor bathroom and two bedrooms available. There is an enclosed rear garden suitable for outdoor play. Nearby there are local amenities including shops and parks, and the motorway network.

The childminder is registered to care for four children under the age of eight years. At present there are three children on roll. Children come for a variety of sessions.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene through satisfactory daily routines. Children wash their hands when they touch the house rabbit, after using the toilet, before eating and after playing outside. The childminder has effective procedures in place for all aspects of hygiene in the home. This sustains good levels of cleanliness and helps to prevent the spread of infection.

Children benefit from a very healthy diet. Children have access to their own drinks throughout the day and the childminder gives gentle reminders to use them, particularly after exercise, such as after playing outside. They enjoy varied, well-presented and nutritious meals and snacks which are freshly prepared. Children enjoy baking and making their own sandwiches. The childminder discusses why they should eat fruit and vegetables on a regular basis.

Children develop their physical skills well. The childminder plans regular outings to local recreational areas and has appropriate equipment in the home that gives children opportunities to climb, ride and balance. Hand to eye coordination is developed well through construction games and the children playing with items in the sand and water tray. The childminder is aware of the needs of young children after exercise. The children rest, sleep and play according to their own routines.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in premises that are exceptionally clean, safe and secure. All doors are locked and the outside area is protected. Children are well supervised and the childminder ensures that she checks visitors' identification before they are allowed into the home. The childminder is aware of the potential dangers within the home. Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised as she explains rules and sets appropriate boundaries, such as taking care on outings to the park and following the rules for playing in an enclosed area. This helps children to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe. The childminder has written fire safety procedures and all of the children have completed the fire evacuation procedure.

Children have access to a large and varied range of safe, quality resources that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. These are well organised and children can freely and safely access them. Resources and equipment are checked regularly and there is a routine in place for ensuring that they are clean and hygienic.

The childminder has appropriate knowledge of child protection procedures. A written policy is shared with parents and carers and they are made aware of the childminder's responsibility with regard to keeping children safe. However, the childminder does not have knowledge of the latest Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are very comfortable in their environment and they play happily with purpose. Activities are child-initiated and the childminder is committed to supporting children in their play, extending their use of language, use of number and imagination well. For example, they

concentrate for long periods on the treasure baskets. Children enjoy using their imagination during role play, dressing up in different costumes, including traditional outfits from other countries. Children particularly enjoy the creative games. Older children have their own pencil cases and drawers and there are ample supplies of card, crayons, paints and large brushes and crayons. The younger children are competent using the tracing boards. High levels of encouragement and praise raise children's levels of self-esteem and confidence and they are confident and secure.

Children have opportunities to access a wide variety of planned activities, both at home and out in the local community. For example, visits to the local library. This encourages the children to develop their social skills and to interact with their peers and other adults.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed warmly into the childminder's home. She recognises children's individuality and works well to meet their needs. A written equal opportunities policy sets out good basic principles for ensuring that children learn to respect their own culture and that of others. However, resources that reflect the wider, more diverse world around are limited.

Children's behaviour is promoted through lots of praise and encouragement and they play alongside each other successfully. The childminder is a good role model and takes time to explain rules and boundaries. She is firm with them and offers them clear explanations as to how their behaviour affects others. Behaviour is managed in a way that is appropriate to each child's age and stage of development. The children understand the house rules and are involved in devising these.

The childminder works well with parents and ensures their wishes are respected. A daily verbal exchange of information and a daily diary for the young children effectively inform parents of their child's progress. The childminder has 'thank you' cards and letters which comment positively on the work she does with the minded children. The childminder is aware of the procedures for recording any complaints made against her. However, the details of the regulator are not up to date in the parent/carer complaints procedure.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her home effectively so that children have easy access and space to fully enjoy their play in a relaxed and comfortable environment. They are secure in their routines and they play at their own pace, supported and encouraged appropriately.

Documentation is organised as the childminder has a professional approach to record keeping. All required registers and records are maintained accurately and held confidentially. The policies and procedures that the childminder puts into practice fully support the welfare, safety and care of the children.

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):

- obtain the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures
- increase positive images of other cultures
- update the complaints procedure to include full details of the regulator.

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