



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY335277
Inspection date	27 February 2007
Inspector	Sue Anslow
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 was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and two children, aged nine and two years, in Bollington. The whole house, with the exception of the childminder's bedroom, is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. She is currently minding a total of seven children, all on a part time basis. The childminder takes and collects from local schools and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is protected and promoted quite well. Children wash their hands or use wet wipes at appropriate times and nappies are changed hygienically. However, young children tend to eat their snacks and meals whilst sitting on the floor, which risks cross contamination if not carefully monitored. Sick or injured children are managed with care and attention and any medication required is recorded correctly with parents' permission. Children's health is promoted through plenty of fresh air and exercise. They play in the garden when the weather is fine, go on outings and walks in the countryside and often walk to and from school.

Children are well nourished throughout the day and the childminder helps them learn about the importance of healthy eating through the provision of nutritious and well balanced meals and snacks. Fresh fruit and vegetables are included in the daily menu and the older children are currently preparing a patch of garden to grow a variety of vegetables. Any particular dietary requirements are respected, in consultation with parents and drinks of diluted juice are provided throughout the day to ensure no one goes thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from sufficient space to play in the lounge and dining room downstairs. Additionally, the older school age children use two of the bedrooms upstairs, enabling several activities to take place at the same time. Play resources are organised in a manner which helps to promote children's free choice. Boxes on the floor allow young toddlers to help themselves to whatever they want to play with and activities are changed regularly. Children benefit from outdoor play in the large garden, which they can use in most weather conditions as there is paving as well as grassed areas. All toys and equipment are kept clean and safe for the benefit of the children's welfare.

Children's safety and security is reasonably well protected. The home and garden are safe for children to play, with most hazards minimised, although care should be taken to keep the laminate floor clear of objects likely to cause accidents for young toddlers. Smoke alarms and a fire blanket in the kitchen ensure children's safety in an emergency. However, children have not practised any evacuation procedures, which compromises their safety in this area. Children's welfare is well protected by the childminder who demonstrates good knowledge of child protection procedures, should the need arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of games and activities appropriate to their interests and abilities. The childminder sometimes plans activities for the children, such as taking them to the farm shop to buy the carrots to make a carrot cake. At other times the play is spontaneous, with the children deciding what they would like to play with and the childminder providing suitable

resources, such as musical instruments or chalk boards. Activities are often linked together to add interest and excitement for the children. After cutting up the carrots to use in the cake, the children put the tops in a saucer of water to watch the leaves sprout and grow bigger. School age children are enjoying preparing a patch of garden to plant vegetables, including carrots, which they will use in their evening meals.

Children enjoy a balance of active and quieter activities, according to their particular moods. They can do their homework, play board games or use the craft materials indoors or play actively outside on the rope and tyre swings or with the balls. Walks in the countryside and frequent visits to the pet shop promotes the children's awareness and appreciation of the natural world. All areas of development are promoted, as the younger children learn colours and numbers through their various play activities. Action songs and stories feature strongly, with the children learning to make noises rhythmically and in time with the music. Children are introduced to a wide range of materials and play experiences which enhance their learning. For example, they use sand and water outside, collect leaves and dig in the soil. Children play well together and enjoy a warm relationship with the childminder. Younger children enjoy snuggling up together on the settee for a story or to look at picture books and the older children enjoy going to the street dance group or the youth club in the early evenings.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are encouraged to participate in all activities and individual needs are met well because the childminder is aware of each child's character and interests. For example, plenty of activities for the more energetic children and gentle encouragement for the quieter, shy children. An appreciation of nature is fostered through visits to the local pond to feed the ducks, trips to the pet shop and watching plants grow and develop. Children celebrate festivals and talk about the different countries they learn about in school.

Children behave well as they learn to share and take turns through songs, games and reminders from the childminder. Good manners are promoted and children are praised for their efforts, achievements and helpfulness. This promotes their confidence and self-esteem. The children's care is enhanced by the effective relationships between their parents and the childminder and the written behaviour management policy informs parents of 'the rules of the house'. Working in partnership together reinforces continuity and consistency between home routines and the management of care in the childminder's home. Verbal information is exchanged daily and each child has their own daily diary for parents to consult. A monthly newsletter is also produced to keep parents informed of any planned outings or events. Appropriate contracts and consent forms are completed and signed as required.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is managed well by a childminder who has completed the initial childminding course and obtained an appropriate first aid certificate. The childminder is committed to providing a good service and has completed a teacher training course covering the primary

school age. The home provides ample space, both indoors and outside, to suit the needs of the minded children and easy access to a variety of toys and play equipment promotes their independence and freedom of choice. Records are kept correctly as required and a number of written policies as well as individual records for each child, keeps parents informed of the care management. 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:

The quality and standards of the care are good. 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):

- ensure that meals and snacks are hygienically served
- practise emergency evacuation procedures regularly with all minded children.

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