

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 401358
Inspection date 09 May 2008
Inspector Alison Margaret Walker

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 June 1994. She lives with her husband, one child aged seven years and two adult children. They live in a semi-detached cottage in a quiet residential area in the village of Goldsborough, near Knaresborough, North Yorkshire. The ground floor and bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently caring for six children aged from two to nine years both on a part time and full time basis. The childminder attends a toddler group once a week and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Effective arrangements are in place for first aid and administering medication. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate and she ensures that she keeps this up-to-date. There is a fully

stocked first aid kit available in the kitchen and this is also taken on outings. The childminder takes anti bacterial gel with her on outings to help prevent the risk of infection. A written sickness policy is in place and this is clearly explained to the parents at the time of placement. They are asked to sign to say they have read it and are given a copy for future reference. The childminder maintains accident and medication records, however, there are a few gaps in their completion. Children are encouraged to follow good hygiene practices, there is a poster in the downstairs cloakroom reminding children to wash their hands after using the toilet and this is re-enforced by the childminder. Children do a jigsaw with a picture of a child washing their hands and they relate this to their own experiences. Effective routines in place for cleaning toys and equipment, for example, outdoor play equipment and toys are steam cleaned regularly.

The children are given drinks frequently but these are not always readily accessible to them at all times. They receive a healthy range of snacks and meals, for example, juice, fresh fruit and vegetables. All food and drink provided is in agreement with the parents. All information on each child's individual dietary needs are recorded by the childminder accurately before the child starts attending. Children enjoy a suitable range of activities which contribute to their good health and physical well-being. They play in the garden on a variety of small and large physical equipment, they enjoy walks to local places of interest, they visit the local park and the pond to feed the ducks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for in a very welcoming, secure and safe environment. There is good evidence of children's play and creative activity. The children enjoy attending very much, they settle well and are happy and confident. Space is used constructively and activities are well organised. There is suitable low-level storage so children can see what is available. These are clearly marked with pictures and text. Children have access to a very wide selection of age appropriate toys, furniture and equipment which are safe and well maintained ensuring that the needs of all the children attending are fully met. The childminder obtains written permission from parents for children to use the trampoline, play house and swings.

The childminder takes thorough steps to ensure the children's safety inside her home. All electric sockets are covered, doors are kept secure, a fire blanket is sited in the kitchen and there are smoke alarms on each level. She has contact details for the children close to hand so she can access these in the event of an emergency. The children are protected from persons who have not been vetted as they are closely supervised at all times by the childminder. She ensures that all members of the household over the age of 16 years undergo the vetting procedure. The childminder has a little knowledge on the procedures to follow if she has child protection concerns about a child in her care but this could be developed further.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are developing their confidence and self-esteem well. They are acquiring new knowledge, interests and skills. For example, simple mathematical concepts, when playing with dolls in a picnic role play the children count five dolls then they get another one and say they now have six. Children have a very keen interest in doing jigsaws and complete these demonstrating concentration and ability. The childminder gives the children one to one attention, she sits at their level and joins in with their play. Children relate very well to her and they are

relaxed in her care. She gives them plenty of praise and encouragement and shows very keen interest in their play.

An extensive range of very stimulating activities are provided that are age appropriate, challenging and interesting. These include, role play, construction, board and card games, jigsaws, books and collage. A child proudly shows a lovely collage they had just completed of an owl using colourful feathers. Children use their imagination very well and are able to relate this to experiences at home. For example, a child pretends to change a doll's bed, talking about their parent changing a bed, putting the sheets in the washing machine and hanging out to dry on the washing line. The childminder is motivated and enhances the children's learning in all areas of their development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has effective partnerships with parents. She works closely with all parents to meet children's individual needs, such as dietary requirements, sleep patterns and potty training. Detailed information is collected on the children, their families, likes, dislikes, religion and health history. This is regularly updated with parents. Appropriate information is given to prospective parents, for example, they discuss the policies and procedures which are clearly explained to ensure the parents are aware of the childminder's practice.

Children are developing a good understanding of responsible behaviour. They are encouraged to be polite, to share, be kind to each other and are praised for doing so. Children behave very well and use manners, such as young children say please and thank you without prompting during play. There are written house rules displayed for the school age children and these include rules, such as, sitting to eat and drink, sharing, taking turns and no jumping on the furniture. Children gain awareness of their local environment and the diversity of the wider world through a suitable selection of resources and activities that promote positive images. For example, role play, books, jigsaws, dolls and craft activities relating to different celebrations, such as Easter and Chinese New Year. Children are fully included in all activities and receive ongoing support and encouragement from the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are happy, settled and confident. This is because the childminder ensures the children have consistent routines. She uses her time, space and resources appropriately to create a stimulating, interesting and safe environment for the children. The children are closely supervised by the childminder at all times. The childminder is aware of all legal requirements, for example, she knows to notify Ofsted of any changes relating to her childminding and she displays her registration certificate. The childminder attends some training courses to enhance her childminding practice, such as the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

All the required documentation is in place, however, the system to record the children's attendance could be improved. All information on the children is stored confidentially but easily accessible if needed in an emergency. This is regularly shared with parents and updated. 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 actions were raised relating to the childminder's vetting procedure and the security of the premises. The childminder now has a robust procedure in place to ensure all members of the household are vetted as soon as they reach the age of 16 years. A second lock has been fitted to the front door which ensures the door locks securely before and after entry. The improvements ensure the children are kept safe and secure.

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):

- ensure documentation relating to accidents and administration of medication is completed accurately
- improve knowledge regarding child protection procedures
- improve systems for recording children's attendance.

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