



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	318875
Inspection date	11 May 2005
Inspector	Cilla Burdis

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 was registered in 1999. She lives in the West Denton area of Newcastle upon Tyne. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. Children do not have access to the garden but there are playing fields and open spaces nearby for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of two children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five on a part time basis and two children aged over eight before and after school. The childminder walks to a local school to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group. The family

has two dogs, a guinea pig and a budgerigar.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing an understanding of good hygiene practice by following care routines implemented by the childminder. The childminder has measures in place to promote good health and hygiene but the risk of cross contamination in the food preparation area is not fully reduced. The childminder ensures that the individual dietary needs of children are met appropriately by obtaining information from parents which is recorded on the children's details forms. Healthy eating is encouraged. Children's developing independence and skill with regard to eating and drinking is promoted and children are confident in requesting help if having difficulties. Drinks are readily available for the children.

Children participate in a variety of physical activities to promote good health. Activities undertaken at the childminder's home such as pedalling, dancing and ball games are supplemented by outings to toddler groups and local play areas. Children's emerging skill and competence with regard to physical skills is evident.

Children are developing an awareness of their own bodily needs. They express their needs by asking for drinks, resting when tired and requesting support to undertake personal care.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's home is organised effectively to allow children independence and freedom. Areas of the home are restricted to promote children's safety and most risks to children have been minimised. There is no evidence however, to confirm the safety of low level glass in some items of furniture. Children are developing an understanding of ways to keep themselves safe and display an understanding of the boundaries set.

A variety of resources are made accessible to the children to enable choices and independence. The childminder ensures that toys are safe for use and do not pose a hazard to the children accessing them, especially when there is a mixed age range of children attending.

Fire safety is satisfactory. The childminder is clear regarding a fire evacuation procedure and regularly checks the fire alarms; however there is no documentary evidence to confirm this. Emergency contact details are documented and the details stored in the childminder's mobile phone for easy access when on outings.

Children's welfare is promoted by the childminder who holds a current first aid certificate and has an understanding of child protection issues. She does not

however, have the required child protection booklet or the details of those she needs to contact if she has concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's house and display a good understanding of their role within the environment and what is expected of them. Children relate well to the childminder and others and are confident in asking for help if required. Children's self-esteem and confidence are well supported by the childminder who listens to what the children have to say and responds appropriately.

A good variety of activities are provided to promote children's learning and development including mark-making activities, construction activities, singing, dancing and looking at books together. Children are enthusiastic, excited and eager to learn. Children's independence is supported by the provision of accessible resources. They choose activities confidently and display emerging skill as they explore and experiment with them. The childminder rotates the equipment, which is made easily accessible and provides a varied range of activities to promote children's all-round development. Regular visits to a local toddler group provide opportunities for children to socialise with others and to use a wider range of resources. During the school holidays, outings include visits to the beach, parks, museums and other child-centred facilities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder promotes a positive view of the wider world and responds to children's observations and questions about diversity in a considerate and sensitive way; however, there are limited meaningful activities and resources to provide children with opportunities to learn about diversity. Children are learning about the local community as they visit places of interest. During school holidays there are more opportunities to undertake visits that the children enjoy, such as the Discovery Museum in Newcastle city centre.

The childminder provides an environment in which children are valued and respected as individuals. Children are encouraged to show care and concern to others by, for example, sharing, taking turns and considering the feelings of others. The childminder understands the impact an adult has on the emotional well-being of children and makes sure that children's feelings, ideas and needs are considered and responded to with sensitivity. Good behaviour is valued and children are encouraged to think about their actions and the impact they have on others.

The childminder obtains information from parents about their children's needs when setting up the placement. Information is shared verbally with parents when they collect their children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home and at ease in the environment, which is organised to meet their needs. This helps the children to develop confidence and to initiate their own play and learning. The daily routines help to develop children's security as they can anticipate what will happen next. Information about the service provided is shared verbally with parents so that children's needs are identified and met appropriately. The documentation is satisfactory but the childminder does not have written contracts or agreements with parents. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection the childminder has partially addressed the issues raised. Parental consents have been obtained but there are no written contracts. The childminder has not undertaken child protection training but, from discussion, has an understanding of signs and symptoms to look out for and what to do if she has concerns. She does not however, have access to written information from the local authority about child protection nor does she have details of the relevant contacts should she need to pass on a concern. Hygiene arrangements have been reassessed; however the childminder needs to give fuller consideration to the possibility of cross contamination in the food preparation area. Resources reflective of equal opportunities are still limited and a recommendation has been raised at this inspection that she continue to increase resources particularly those reflecting positive images of disability.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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.
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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):

- continue to increase resources reflecting positive images of diversity especially disability
- draw up and maintain contracts with all parents
- ensure low level glass does not pose a safety hazard to children
- review practice to reduce the risk of cross contamination in the food preparation areas
- obtain guidance and contact details to ensure a clear understanding of what to do in the event of child protection concerns being raised.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk