



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	401222
Inspection date	27 September 2006
Inspector	Josephine Ann Northend
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 a registered childminder since 1997. She lives with her husband and their twin boys aged 15 and 13 year old daughter. They live in a terraced house, on a main road in a residential area of Stokesley, North Yorkshire. The property is close to the school and is within walking distance of the town centre.

The dining room and kitchen are used by minded children. There is a fully enclosed yard to the rear of the property and a fully enclosed garden to the front. They are both used for outdoor play.

There are currently four children under eight years on roll who attend on a part time basis. Children who are aged over eight years are also cared for.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities that contribute to their good health. They take part in regular indoor physical games and outdoor activities in the fully enclosed garden. This encourages their physical development. For example, children enjoy playing 'row the boat' and they visit local parks and amenities often. Children are able to rest and be active according to their individual needs.

Children's health is supported by the encouragement of appropriate personal care routines which also allow them to develop their independence, for example, with wiping their hands before meals. They are cared for in a warm, clean home which contributes to their good health and sense of security. Effective procedures followed by the childminder results in children being protected from illness and the spread of infection. Clear accident and medication records are in place, however, parents are not asked to sign the medication record to acknowledge when medication has been administered. This means children's welfare is not fully safeguarded.

Regular drinks are offered to the children who also benefit from being offered varied and healthy snacks. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure food and drinks meet children's dietary needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a spacious environment where risks are identified and minimised. This means children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder has sound systems in place to ensure children's safety inside and outside the home and gives priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe, for example, as she promotes road safety when out walking.

Furniture, equipment and toys which are of good quality and in a safe, well maintained condition are provided to promote children's development and welfare. Toys are available for all ages, and in sufficient quantities to ensure children enjoy a wide range of activities to promote all areas of development. They are stored so that children can reach them easily, make choices and develop their independence.

Children are well protected. The childminder has all the required procedures and documentation in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, she holds a current first aid certificate and has a sound understanding of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children have excellent relationships with the childminder and are well settled, happy, confident and secure in her care. They sing spontaneously, laugh and have fun. Children learn to be

increasingly independent as a result of the consistent support, praise and encouragement given to them. Communication skills are well supported through high quality adult-child interactions, for example, children enjoy sharing story books with the childminder, they point out the pictures and the childminder responds with keen interest.

The childminder plans and prepares an excellent range of interesting activities which take into account children's individual interests. The childminder has a very good understanding of how children learn and uses this knowledge to plan and provide a range of stimulating and appropriate activities. Younger children have opportunities to socialise with other children through regular attendance at local toddler groups.

Children are involved in an extensive range of activities and outings that promote learning in all areas of their development. The childminder observes the children closely and is aware of their individual progress and achievements. Their confidence and self-esteem are exceptionally well promoted as the childminder constantly praises and encourages them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder actively promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice resulting in all children feeling valued and free from discrimination. They access a varied range of activities and resources which increases their awareness of diversity.

Children behave generally well. The childminder helps them to negotiate and take responsibility for their own behaviour by supporting them, being a positive role model, and encouraging the children to help each other. There are currently no children with learning difficulties or disabilities attending the setting. The childminder has a very positive attitude towards caring for all children.

The childminder works well with parents and a relaxed and friendly relationship is evident. Parents are kept fully informed of how their child has been. The childminder completes a written daily diary for the parents of children under two years, this includes details of the child's day and activities they have been involved in.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder's professional attitude to her role as a childminder is reflected throughout the provision. A range of stimulating and appropriate activities are planned and provided. Children feel at home and at ease in the well-organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate their own play and learning. Indoor and outdoor space is organised to maximise play opportunities for children. Adult-child ratios are maintained in order to enhance children's health, safety, enjoyment, overall achievement and contribution.

All documentation required for the safe and efficient management of the provision is available, well presented and up to date. Many additional, good practice records are available as the childminder has a good range of written procedures in place. They are used effectively to

promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. Parents have access to these at any time. 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 the childminder was asked to ensure parents are supplied with Ofsted's contact details. The complaints policy clearly includes Ofsted's details and the Ofsted parent's poster is displayed for their attention. This means parents know how to contact the regulator and enhances children's welfare.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 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 parents sign to acknowledge the record of medication administered to 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