



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312750
Inspection date	30 August 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 lives with her husband and daughter in a three bed-roomed semi-detached property in an established residential area close to local amenities and schools. The childminder has been registered for eight years and has nine children on roll at present.

Minded children have use of the ground floor of the property and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor activities.

The childminder is a member of the Redcar and Cleveland childminder's network and 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 outdoor activities in the fully enclosed garden including ball games, skipping ropes and use of other large and small equipment to encourage their physical development. They walk to and from school each day and visit local parks and amenities regularly. Children are able to rest and be active according to their individual needs.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home which contributes to their good health and sense of security. Their health is supported by the encouragement of appropriate personal care routines which also allow them to develop their independence, for example, washing their own hands. Effective procedures followed by the childminder result in children being protected from illness and the spread of infection.

Regular drinks are offered to the children who also benefit from being offered varied and generally healthy meals and snacks. The childminder works closely with parents to provide food and drinks which appeal to children and meets their dietary needs. Children enjoy fresh fruit and vegetables and they are encouraged to try different foods to promote their healthy growth and development. However, some processed foods provided do not fully support this area.

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 recently fitted air conditioning to the conservatory to ensure children remain comfortable. Good systems are in place to ensure children's safety inside and outside the home and the childminder gives priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe on outings, for example, as she promotes road safety when out walking.

Toys are available for all ages, and in sufficient quantities to ensure children enjoy a wide range of activities to promote all areas of their 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 learn to be increasingly independent as a result of the consistent support, praise and encouragement given to them. Communication skills are exceptionally well

supported through high quality adult-child interactions. The children talk freely about their home lives and the childminder responds with keen interest. For example, a child confidently discussed the recent security arrangements in place at the airport when he went on holiday. The childminder extended his thoughts and recollections through sharing her own experiences.

The childminder has excellent understanding of how children learn and she makes superb use of the Birth to three framework in order to plan and provide a range of stimulating and appropriate activities. Photographs are available for parents of their child playing and each includes an explanation of what the children are achieving.

Children are involved in an extensive range of activities and outings that promote learning in all areas of their development. The activities planned take into account children's individual interests. The childminder observes the children closely and is aware of their individual progress and achievements. She constantly praises and encourages the children. This promotes their confidence and self-esteem extremely well.

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. The childminder spends time choosing items that reflect positive images and the children learn about the local community as they go for visit local amenities.

The childminder uses positive strategies for managing behaviour. This helps the children to understand the boundaries set and to behave well. There are currently no children with learning difficulties or disabilities attending the setting. The childminder has a positive attitude towards caring for all children.

Trusting partnerships have been established with parents to help promote children's well-being, development and progress. Information is clearly displayed for them on a notice board and parents are kept fully informed of how their child has been. This enables the childminder to meet each child's individual needs.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children feel very much at home and at ease in the excellent, well-organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate their own play and learning. Adult-child ratios are maintained and the childminder works extremely well in order to enhance children's health, safety, enjoyment, overall achievement and contribution. The childminder effectively uses policies and procedures to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children.

The childminder makes excellent use of the Birth to three framework to plan and provide a range of stimulating and appropriate activities. Her professional attitude to her role as a childminder is reflected throughout the provision. Attendance at many additional training

courses including Birth to three matters training has increased her knowledge and skills and allowed her to develop her practice.

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 and the childminder has an excellent range of written procedures in place. Parents receive comprehensive written information about the childminder and her provision. 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 agreed to devise and implement a system to record any incident of physical restraint. All incidents are now recorded including incidents of physical restraint. This ensures children's welfare is protected.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parent, 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):

- continue to develop and promote healthy eating.

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