



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY319829
Inspection date	14 August 2006
Inspector	Sharon, Amelia Robson
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 lives with her husband and two children, aged two and 12 years, in a first floor flat in a quiet residential area situated near to the town of North Shields in North Tyneside.

Transport systems make the home easily accessible. Provisions for young children are varied and within walking distance and include carer and toddler groups, parks, schools and library. Children have access to the living room, two front bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom.

There is an enclosed rear yard for outdoor play. The family have a dog and two cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and well-being are promoted through good, flexible routines that help them understand about being healthy. Children are made aware of personal hygiene through positive role modelling provided by the childminder. She encourages children to wash hands before meals, after toileting and after handling pets. She discusses the admission of sick children with parents to help safeguard children's health. Accident and medication recording systems are in place and the childminder is clear on how to maintain these. She has a suitable first aid kit and has completed relevant first aid training.

Children enjoy healthy nutritious snacks and meals, including lots of fresh fruit and vegetables. Children have regular access to drinks, such as milk and water. All food provided takes into account children's likes and dislikes and parental wishes. The childminder ensures that food provided by parents is stored appropriately.

Children take part in a wide range of activities that further contribute to their good health, such as walks in the local community, to nursery school and the local park where they can explore and learn about nature. They have further opportunities to confidently develop their physical skills, such as jumping, climbing and balancing, through regular visits to pickles den and the beach. Children are given lots of encouragement by the childminder to enjoy the outdoor environment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an organised home, so they are able to explore and select activities safely. A good range of safety equipment is available and in use, taking into account the age of the children being cared for. The childminder has a policy in place for the safe evacuation of the home and smoke detectors are in place. The childminder ensures the areas accessed by children are safe through daily visual risk assessments, which includes checking play materials.

Children choose activities and select resources from a wide range of toys and equipment, which are maintained to a satisfactory level, so that they are safe and complete. They are situated in easily accessible locations in the home; therefore, promoting children's freedom of choice and their independence.

The childminder understands about keeping children safe and has some knowledge of issues relating to child protection. However, she could develop this knowledge and understanding of safe guarding children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have a warm relationship with the childminder who treats them with kindness and care. They are confident, happy and settled in her care. She interacts well with them, giving appropriate attention, encouragement and motivation to play. Children enjoy a range of toys and activities in a friendly environment and they learn and develop new skills. Children are enthusiastic as they use their natural sense of curiosity and develop their imagination, for example when playing with the fur snakes. They use various art and craft materials in many ways to make interesting pictures and also participate in other creative activities. Photographs and conservations keep parents informed of activities and outings the children have experienced.

The childminder values children and has a good understanding of how they learn and develop. This is evident in the way the play areas and resources are organised and the care and attention that is given. She has knowledge of each child and the wishes of parents to ensure there is consistency so that children can progress and learn effectively. The childminder helps children to develop their vocabulary skills by using simple and clear language.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's positive attitude towards equal opportunities and respecting individual needs. Children have opportunities to learn about their own community and the wider world; however, resources promoting positive images of equal opportunities are limited.

Children are well behaved, they learn about sharing and valuing others from the good role model provided by the childminder. She supports children and praises and encourages them in daily routines and activities, which helps them develop their self-esteem, confidence and sense of belonging. Children respond well to guidance from the childminder and the good range of strategies she has in place for dealing with children's behaviour, including distraction and discussion.

Relationships with parents are promoted and well developed. Parents are kept well informed of their child's progress and details of their physical care on a daily basis, through discussion and photographs. The childminder has an information file for parents which gives some details of the care she provides and also of any courses and training she has completed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is caring and understanding and she is keen to ensure children benefit from their time in her care. This is reflected in the way the child care areas are organised in her home and the good health and safety measures taken. Children have access to a range of resources and various activities are provided to meet children's individual needs.

Flexible daily routines enable children to settle well and feel secure in the setting. The recording systems are well organised, appropriately maintained and are supplemented by relevant written parental consents and contracts, which are kept up to date with relevant information.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom is 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 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):

- that the childminder develops her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues
- that the childminder expands her resources which provide positive images of equal opportunities.

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