



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	309889
Inspection date	26 September 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 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 two children aged 12 and 14 years. They live in a semi-detached house in a quiet residential area of Wellfield, Whitley Bay. The property is in walking distance to local transport links, schools, nurseries and parks.

Children have access to the lounge, dining room, kitchen and first floor bathroom.

There is an enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and well-being are promoted through good, flexible daily routines that help them understand about being healthy. Children are made aware of good personal hygiene through positive role modelling provided by the childminder. She enthusiastically and actively encourages children to wash hands before meals, after toileting and playing outdoors. Children also have the opportunity to wash dishes in their own bowl after baking sessions. There is in depth discussion with parents regarding the admission of sick children, which helps to minimise cross infection and to 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 learn to understand the benefits of a healthy diet from an early age. Children are able to make choices from a variety of healthy snacks and help themselves to easily accessible drinks. Children are involved in weekly cooking sessions and the childminder ensures the recipes and skills needed are age appropriate. There is very good communication with parents about children's individual dietary needs and the childminder ensures children have a healthy and nutritious diet.

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. For example, picking blackberries and collecting acorns for a craft activity. They have further opportunities to confidently develop their physical skills, such as climbing, jumping and balancing, through the very good range of high quality outdoor equipment. Children are given lots of positive encouragement by the childminder to enjoy the outdoor environment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an extremely well organised and maintained home, so they are able to explore and select activities safely. A very good range of safety equipment is available and in use, taking account the age of the children being cared for. A safety policy includes the safe evacuation of the home and this is discussed with older children. The childminder ensures the areas accessed by children are safe through daily visual risk assessments, which includes checking outdoor equipment as and when used.

Children choose activities and select resources from an extensive range of good quality toys and equipment, which are maintained to a high standard, so they are safe and complete. They are situated in several easily accessible locations in the home, therefore promoting children's freedom of choice and their independence. Whilst walking with the children, the childminder discusses road safety to ensure all children have an awareness and understanding of this.

The childminder has a range of procedures in place in place to promote the care and well-being of children. She understands about keeping children safe through her very good knowledge of issues relating to child protection. She has completed a child protection induction course and written details of local procedures and contacts.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have a warm and caring relationship with the childminder who treats them with extreme kindness and affection. They are confident, happy and settled in her care. She interacts well with them, giving them lots of attention, encouragement and motivation to enjoy activities. Children enjoy an extensive range of stimulating toys and activities in a calm and friendly environment. They learn and develop their understanding of numbers, shapes and colours in age appropriate, educational and fun ways. The childminder uses appropriate methods to promote and reinforce learning, including clear guidance during activities. The childminder has some knowledge and regard to 'Birth to three matters' framework.

Children are able to select toys and activities from the extremely well resourced play areas. Children are enthusiastic as they use their natural sense of curiosity and develop their imagination. They use lots of different art and craft materials in many ways to make interesting pictures, for example, painting leaves that have been collected while out walking. Conservations and photographs keep parents informed of activities and outings the children have experienced.

The childminder values children and has a very good understanding of how they learn and develop. This is evident in the way the play areas and resources are organised and in the care children receive. She has a sound knowledge of each child's individual needs and the wishes of parents, which ensures 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 good.

Children benefit from the childminder's very positive attitude towards equal opportunities and respecting individual needs. Children have good opportunities to learn about their own community and the wider world through the good range of resources in the home and outings in their local community. Children have access to a wide range of resources, including books, dolls and small world toys, which contain positive images of diversity. The childminder spends time with the children discussing different cultures and disability.

Children are extremely well behaved, they learn about sharing and valuing others from the very good role model provided by the childminder. She gently and sensitively supports, praises and encourages them in daily routines and activities, which helps children develop their self-esteem, confidence and sense of belonging. The childminder encourages children to share their opinions and make decisions. Children respond well to guidance from the childminder and the very good

range of strategies she has in place for dealing with children's behaviour, including distraction and explanation.

Relationships with parents are promoted and developed very well. Parents are kept extremely well informed of their child's progress and details of their physical care on a daily basis, both verbally and from daily diaries for younger children. Parents are informed and consulted about all aspects of the care and service provided. Parents views about their children's needs and interests are actively sought before the child's placement begins and on a regular basis throughout their time the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is extremely caring, affectionate and understanding. She is very keen to ensure that children benefit from their time in her care. This is reflected in the way the child care areas are well organised in her home and in the effective health and safety measures taken. Children have access to a wide range of resources and stimulating activities are provided to effectively meet children's individual needs. The childminder has participated in child protection training and has strategies in place to develop her skills and knowledge further.

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

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Children's arrival and departure times are recorded accurately, and written parental permission for administering medication is in place.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provision 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 can be seen 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):

- develop knowledge and understanding of 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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