



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY298933
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Pauline Pinnegar
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 in a residential area of Fairfield, Stockton-on-Tees with her husband and daughter aged 15 months. She has been a registered childminder since January 2005. The ground floor and first floor bathroom are used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children and there are currently two children on roll aged four years old and 18 months old. Children attend on a part-time basis. The childminder takes and collects children from the local nursery school.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

The children enjoy daily opportunities to benefit from fresh air and exercise. For example, the children enjoy regular trips to the park to use apparatus for climbing and balancing, and walk to and from nursery. The children have only been attending the provision for two weeks but the childminder plans to provide additional opportunities for physical exercise at toddler groups and the local Sure Start 'mini movers' group. Indoors children enjoy singing and moving to music and ring games. Children's rest and sleep routines are understood by the childminder, who meets these needs by providing appropriate sleep facilities where children can be easily monitored.

The children are cared for in a clean and suitably maintained environment. The childminder understands and follows basic hygiene routines and as a result the children's health is promoted. For example, she ensures that the children are monitored as they wash their hands before meals. The clear policy for excluding children when they are ill is discussed and agreed with the parents and this limits opportunities for cross infection. There are suitable systems in place for dealing with accidents involving children; for example, the well-stocked first aid box and the accident record ensure that children's well-being is promoted.

Arrangements for snacks and drinks are negotiated with parents so that children's individual dietary needs are met appropriately. Parents provide packed lunches and most snacks. The childminder consults with children about their likes and dislikes. They often choose healthy snacks, such as fruit and yoghurts. Sweets and confectionary are discouraged. Children independently help themselves to water or milk to drink when they are thirsty.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe indoor environment because the childminder takes appropriate steps to minimise hazards. For example, the outer doors are kept locked when children are present, and safety gates and a fireguard are used when toddlers and babies are cared for. Children are able to easily access suitable equipment which is regularly maintained and appropriate for their developmental needs. The childminder has given careful consideration to safe evacuation in the event of an emergency and has practised her plan with the children.

Safety is appropriately considered when out for walks. The childminder manages this very well and clearly explains to children that they must always hold on to the pushchair, and the younger children are securely fastened into the pushchair. They cross roads safely after stopping and looking around carefully, with close support from the childminder.

Children are adequately protected because the childminder understands her role in child protection. However, she does not have a copy of her Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures, which compromises her ability to be able to put the correct procedures into practice

when necessary. She has attended child protection training, which helps her to feel more confident about reporting any concerns.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminding atmosphere is lively and busy, and children move freely and confidently from one room to another as they play with a variety of equipment. All children are comfortable, relaxed and converse easily with the childminder. Children are secure and settled in the child-friendly environment. The childminder, although familiar with the 'Birth to three matters' framework, has not as yet incorporated it fully into the planning for very young children. She feels that by using the framework it will enhance the experiences for children.

Children enjoy a variety of activities; they can choose quiet or active play according to how they feel. They enjoy sticky collage activities creating their own pictures. Older children enjoy decorating biscuits with coloured icing. Role-play is also a feature of the setting and children enjoy playing with the dolls' house and the play people. Younger children enjoy building with the bricks and playing with the cars. Older children enjoy listening to their favourite stories, such as 'The Selfish Crocodile', and join in with enthusiasm. All children enjoy dancing to music and playing with small world toys, such as dolls and prams.

The range of freely accessible resources is well considered in order to enhance independent choices and challenge the development needs of the younger children.

Children develop warm and trusting relationships with the childminder, which increases their sense of well-being and confidence. They behave well and begin to understand why some behaviour is unacceptable; they learn to take turns, and are encouraged to be polite and to have good manners.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder is establishing good working relationships with parents to meet children's individual needs. She does this by sharing relevant information each day both verbally and through the use of written diaries. A complaints policy has been implemented. Agreements reached with parents are clearly recorded. Parents receive detailed written information about all policies and procedures, promoting continuity of care.

Children's awareness of their local community is raised by outings to the shops and the park. However, resources and activities which raise children's awareness of diversity are limited. Favourite toys and comforters are available at all times, which helps children feel secure. The childminder has a sound understanding of how to care for children with special needs.

Children become familiar with the relaxed daily routines and enjoy warm and trusting relationships. The childminder always offers choices so that they feel 'in charge'. They independently select their own play resources. Children confidently let the childminder know what they want to play with. She knows them well and responds warmly to their needs. Children

learn to share and cooperate as they play. They behave well and respond to the clear and consistent approach used by the childminder. She uses praise and encouragement successfully to promote positive behaviour and uses techniques, such as distraction, to refocus the children to a different task or activity. The behaviour management policy has a strong emphasis on respect for each other. The childminder has just introduced weekly certificates for children for 'special achievements'. As a result, the children are happy and well settled. Children are helped to feel good about themselves as the childminder praises them and gives plenty of warm encouragement. Children are encouraged to be helpful and caring; they are encouraged to tidy away toys as they finish with them, before getting out new ones.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has attended all the mandatory training and demonstrates a sound understanding of child development. She plans a suitable range of experiences for children, which assist their learning and development. She introduces children to a varied range of activities and provides opportunities for them to make choices in their play. The childminder organises her day to meet children's needs and interests. She works within her numbers at all times to ensure children receive a good level of care and individual attention. The children are cared for in a suitably well-organised environment where they can easily access resources. The childminder has completed all mandatory training. However, her first aid certificate was not available for inspection.

Most records and documentation required for the safe and efficient management of the provision are available, well kept and up to date. However, the public liability certificate was not available for inspection. Some good practice records, such as policy and procedure documents, are also available and support the organisation of the provision.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it 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 provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaint 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 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):

- develop knowledge and understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures
- consider ways to vary and enhance the play experiences of younger children as explained in the 'Birth to three matters' framework
- develop the activities and resources to raise children's awareness of diversity
- ensure all documentation is available for inspection including the first aid and public liability insurance certificates.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)