



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY305138
Inspection date	29 November 2006
Inspector	Andrea, Jane Lockyer

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 registered since May 2005. She lives with her husband and three children aged 17 years, four years and 16 months. They live in a semi-detached house in the Hartlepool area of Cleveland. Local amenities and public transport systems are within walking distance. The whole of the ground floor areas are used for childminding purposes, access to the first floor is restricted to the use of the bathroom and three children's bedrooms. There is a suitable rear garden available for outdoor play. The family do not have any pets. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under the age of eight years and is currently caring for two children, both of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and receives support and training opportunities from the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Each day there are outdoor or indoor activities which help them develop increasing control of their bodies, for example, as they learn to use sit and ride toys, join in with music and dance sessions, play football and other ball games and enjoy using the see-saw. Daily walks, visits to soft play and trips to parks to use swings, slides and climbing apparatus improve children's physical skills.

Children are well cared for in a warm and welcoming home, where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care throughout their daily routine. The consistent adult support and guidance helps children gain a good understanding of hygiene and a desire to become increasingly independent in their personal care, for example, they willingly help to wipe the table after eating, enjoy helping to load and unload the dishwasher and washing machine and older children independently access the toilet, tissues and wipes. Their clear understanding of why they must wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet reduces the risk of cross contamination. Good communication with parents and comprehensive records ensure that children's individual health needs are met well.

Children are beginning to have a good understanding of the benefits of a healthy diet. They are able to make choices from a variety of healthy foods, for example, a selection of fruits or raw vegetable sticks at snack time, and help themselves to easily accessible drinks throughout the day. The childminder provides a good range of homemade healthy meals and snacks, and encourages children to try different tastes and textures of foods. In depth discussions with parents and comprehensive records, ensure that children are provided with a healthy nutritious diet, which takes account of their individual dietary needs and parental wishes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a safe home where the risks are identified and minimised. This enables them to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe both in and out of the home. She effectively achieves a good balance between freedom and setting safe limits. This allows children to learn a sense of danger and knowledge about how to protect themselves from harm, for example, as they cross roads, use large outdoor play equipment, travel in the car and tidy away toys so as not to fall over them.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment which meet safety standards. The childminder has a clear understanding of child protection issues to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted, however, she lacks clarity of the correct procedures to follow if a child protection issue arises.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's home. They are confident and happy. They achieve well because the childminder has a clear understanding of their developmental stages. Children access a wide range of activities and experiences that promote and enhance individual development and learning skills.

They relate very well to each other and socialise with other children through visits to local amenities. All children spend their time purposefully. They enjoy a wide variety of experiences which contribute to their imaginative, physical, creative and language skills, such as joining in with songs and stories, developing role play, drawing and painting, dressing up and playing in the garden. Close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust and help them to develop a strong sense of self.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are developing a positive attitude towards others and gaining an understanding about the wider world. They are able to access some resources that show positive images of race, gender and culture, however, these are limited, and there are no resources that reflect positive images of people with disabilities. They have good opportunities to learn about their local community as they visit parks, shops and go on local walks.

The childminder has realistic expectations of children's behaviour. She implements a range of good strategies to promote positive behaviour that help children understand right from wrong. Children respond positively to the childminder's praise and encouragement, for example, they willingly help to tidy up, share toys and are developing a good understanding of cooperative play. They behave very well.

Children benefit from the good relationships between the childminder and parents. The childminder has in-depth discussions with parents and maintains comprehensive records to ensure children's needs are met. Parents are provided with an information pack which provides them with good information about the setting, policies, procedures and the care, welfare and learning of their children. Appropriate written parental consent has been obtained for emergency medical treatment and to transport children in the car, however, parents have not signed the emergency care agreement.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The well organised environment and good daily routines ensure that children are happy and well settled. Good opportunities are made for free play, social interaction, resting, eating and going out. This means that children are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The required ratios are maintained and the childminding day is organised well, which results in children receiving good levels of support and their needs being met. The childminder

has attended the required training and has a positive attitude to extended training to further her skills to benefit children.

All records, documentation, policies and procedures are effectively implemented and shared with parents, which contributes to continuity in the children's care, and ensures that their individual needs are met.

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 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):

- obtain written parental consent for the emergency plan agreement
- provide a range of resources that increase children's awareness of diversity
- develop knowledge and understanding of the child protection procedures in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board's guidelines

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