



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	310085
<b>Inspection date</b>	02 November 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Cathryn Parry
<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 was registered in 1994. She lives with her husband and two adult children in the residential area of Whitley Bay. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and currently cares for two children. She walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a dog and goldfish.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children can participate in activities as the premises and equipment are clean. They are learning appropriate personal hygiene practices through consistent routines and positive role modelling. The childminder washes her own hands following nappy changes, and encourages children to wash theirs following visits to the toilet. Appropriate relationships with parents and relevant training ensure individual children are suitably cared for should they become ill. This reduces the risk of cross-infection. Children access some opportunities for physical play, including visits to the park and soft play area. They explore, test and develop physical control when using sit and ride toys and kicking the balls. Children are active or restful through choice and babies sleep in line with their personal routines and parent's wishes.

The childminder discusses children's individual needs with their parents before they start to attend and a registration form is completed. This ensures specific health and dietary requirements are appropriately met. Parents have the option to provide their children's meals, or the childminder prepares fresh food, such as vegetables and fruit. Drinks are freely available during the day, which promotes children's well-being.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are made welcoming and friendly to children and parents. The childminder is approachable and toys are attractively set out. Large glass doors enable children to benefit from natural light. The outdoor play space is secure and well maintained, which reduces the risk of accidental injury. Children are able to explore safely using clean resources, which are in good condition. Those who go on outings are kept safe as the childminder is vigilant and uses age-appropriate restraints. The provision of suitable furniture and equipment, such as a high chair, car booster seats and buggies ensure individual needs are appropriately met. Children are suitably safeguarded as the childminder's home is secure at all times. This is supplemented with appropriate procedures for adults collecting children.

The childminder has taken action to ensure that risks inside and outside her home have been minimised, so that children can play without injury. She has made the staircase safe by installing suitably spaced spindles to restrict children's access to the stairs. The majority of safety equipment is in place reducing the risk of accidents. However, all electrical sockets are not protected, which has a negative impact on ensuring children's well-being. Children are protected well as the childminder has attended child protection training and has a sound understanding of associated issues.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Sufficient support is given, which nurtures children's independence, for example, when helping the baby to sit. Regular praise and encouragement raises children's confidence and self-esteem.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and are happy to participate in the variety of activities provided. These include baking, drawing and playing with construction toys. The childminder sets out a range of resources for children to choose from and arranges activities to follow their interests. An example of this is giving a child who enjoys football, opportunities to play with the balls. A reasonable balance of child-centred and adult-led experiences ensures appropriate challenge for children's ages and stages of development.

The childminder communicates using appropriate tone, facial expression and body language. This results in good interactions between herself and the baby. Children use their imagination when playing with the toy castle and dressing up at the parent and toddler group. Their counting skills are promoted through various activities, including songs and rhymes. Sitting together for meals is one of the ways that children's social skills are developed. The range of resources that the childminder has accumulated over the past 22 years gives children a breadth of experiences.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

An induction period for children, including short visits with their parents, ensures the childminder has relevant information to provide suitable care. The childminder's appropriate approach to equal opportunities contributes to children's positive attitudes to the wider community. However, there are limited resources to complement this, which has a negative impact on raising children's awareness and understanding of difference. Although the childminder has limited experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities, she shows a positive attitude to minding all children. This promotes an inclusive environment.

The childminder shows a suitable understanding of behaviour management strategies, including the appropriate use of removing children from a situation for a short period of time. These methods of managing behaviour are discussed with parents before children start attending. This promotes continuity of care. The childminder speaks to parents daily to ensure they are informed of the activities their children have taken part in.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's play opportunities are enhanced through the suitable organisation of space, time and resources. Appropriate use of space enables children to engage in quieter and more boisterous activities. The childminder plans her time to include opportunities to visit places of interest, such as Whitehouse Farm. This broadens children's experiences. Free choice and independence are encouraged through the wide range of resources, which are positioned so that all children can easily access them.

The childminder has attended some training, and has over 22 years experience of caring for children. She has made links with other childminders and meets them at a local drop-in centre. This has a positive impact on the quality of care provided. All legally required documentation is in place and implemented appropriately. This positively contributes to children's overall

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

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous inspection the childminder was asked to ensure recording formats are in place in respect of accidents and the administration of medication which comply with regulatory requirements and to ensure telephone numbers of child protection agencies are available. The childminder uses a diary to record accidents and any medication administered. She has appropriate child protection agency contact details, which has a positive impact on safeguarding children.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004 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 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):

- ensure all electrical sockets are protected
- further develop equal opportunities resources.

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)