



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	311763
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 November 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Shirley Peart
<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 good. 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 1996. She lives with her husband, two adult children and their teenage child in Crawcrook, Tyne and Wear which is situated in the west of Gateshead. The home is situated close to all of the amenities, such as schools and shops, in the village of Crawcrook. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed patio and garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five years, four children over five years and one child aged over eight years, mainly on a part-time, varied basis.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a thoroughly clean, and hygienic home, which is particularly good for babies when they sit or crawl on the floor. The childminder responds to babies immediately and she adheres to their individual routine. She checks their nappies, offers cuddles and reassurance, so that they are secure. An accident book, medication forms and first aid equipment is all in place and the childminder holds a valid first aid certificate. The childminder offers appropriate care to children with allergies or medical conditions. Therefore, children's health and personal care needs are well met. There have been very few accidents to children, which is good. However, the accident recording book is not sufficiently secure, as this is a ring binder, with tear out pages.

All children, including babies, bring their own food from home. This ensures that children eat the food that they enjoy and there are limited risks of them eating food that they are not allowed, or being allergic to anything. The childminder stores made up babies' food in the fridge, which ensures that it is maintained at a safe temperature. Children have a piece of fruit, or a biscuit for snacks and have plenty of water to drink. This ensures that their nutritional needs are met well.

Children have plenty of opportunities to be out and about in the fresh air. They are taken on relevant trips to the beach, or are wrapped up to play outside in the snow. They regularly walk to school, or play outside, so that they receive plenty of fresh air and exercise, which ensures that their overall physical development is enhanced very well. Therefore, their health and personal care needs are well met.

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a spacious, well maintained home. To ensure that children are safe when they play outside, the childminder supervises them closely, or blocks off areas of the garden, as this is on three levels.

There is a very good range of toys and equipment, which is bright, clean, varied for different age groups and easily accessible for the children. For example, there are games and bead making kits for the older children and rattles, soft toys and interactive activity centres for babies and toddlers. The toys are alternated regularly so that children have plenty of choice. There is also a good range of diverse equipment, such as small world ethnic and 'grandmother' figures and figures in wheelchairs, which helps children to gain a good understanding of differences in the world.

Children are cared for by a vigilant childminder who adheres to very good safety practices. For example, appropriate car insurance and child safety seats are in place, children talk about emergency evacuation and what they should not touch when they are baking. The childminder's

home is secure, smoke detectors are tested and she obtains consent from parents where necessary.

Appropriate information and procedures are in place regarding child protection. The childminder understands her role and responsibility in child protection matters and keeps all relevant telephone numbers at hand. This ensures that children's welfare is appropriately protected.

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

The provision is good.

Babies are looked after very well by a caring childminder who provides lots of natural, warm interaction, eye contact, verbal reassurance and lots of cuddles. Therefore, they feel secure, make gestures and snuggle into the childminder. She sits on the floor with them and entertains them with musical and interactive toys and suitable books. Children are therefore very interested in their surroundings and make good attempts to press buttons and point at pictures.

Older children have lots of choices. They dress up, make up shows and dances to entertain each other and play cooperatively. They involve the childminder in their games, as she becomes a 'judge' for their dancing competitions.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder treats children as part of her family. Babies benefit from being cared for by a responsive, caring childminder who meets their needs very well. For example, she recognises when they are tired and how they prefer to sleep. She is willing and able to care for children with disabilities, or specific medical needs and has carried out relevant training, for example on how to administer epi-pens.

Although there were no older children present, through discussion the childminder was able to demonstrate how she manages children's behaviour in a positive way. For example, she allows them choices and enhances their responsibilities, as they choose the activities for a particular day of the week, which encourages sharing and turn taking. All of the children cared for play cooperatively, therefore she very rarely disciplines them.

Partnership with parents is very good. Parents and carers are very happy with the care that their children receive, which is reflected in the positive letters and references. They find the childminder, 'considerate' and 'reliable' and are 'thoroughly delighted' to have her as their childminder. Many of the children in her care have attended the setting for a number of years, which is good. She provides settling in periods and spends time talking to the parents about their children's day and will often send picture text messages, to reassure parents that they are settled.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The provision is well organised. All required documentation is up-to-date, maintained confidentially and parental consent is in place where necessary. Although the childminder has not carried out any recent training, she has many years experience, enjoys her work and is dedicated in her role as a childminder. She keeps herself up-to-date by reading relevant publications, such as the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

Children benefit from a range of stimulating activities that enhance their all round development very well. For example, she attends different groups and venues that meet the needs of the different ages of children. They dress up, go on interesting visits, such as to the railway station, they bake and decorate eggs for Easter.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, the childminder was required to; ensure that a valid first aid certificate was maintained; to ensure that all adults in the household were vetted and to ensure that awareness was gained regarding information in the relevant child protection booklet.

The childminder has made good progress. She has completed a relevant first aid course that includes first aid for children and babies, all adults in the household are vetted and she holds the relevant booklets on child protection, including local information. Therefore, children's health and welfare is protected well.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since 1 April 2004, 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 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):

- ensure that the accident recording book is sufficiently secure
- continue to update knowledge and training on the '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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)