



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 313605 |
| Inspection date | 14 November 2006 |
| Inspector | Karen Marie Tervit |
| 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 a registered since 1998. She lives in Coxhoe, close to shops, schools and parks. She has two adult children.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children and is currently caring for eleven children, two of whom attend full time. The whole of the ground floor areas are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear yard for outdoor play.

The childminder takes children to local parent and toddler groups.

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 before food preparation and after emptying potties. She encourages children to wash their own hands, using baby wipes for younger children. Older children dry their own hands using paper towels. Even very young children know to put their hand over their mouths when they cough. This reduces the risk of cross-infection. Appropriate relationships with parents and relevant training ensure individual children are suitably cared for should they become ill. The childminder has appropriate documentation in place to support her practice; however, records of accidents and medication are not always maintained confidentially and some parents have not given written permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice.

The childminder discusses children's individual needs with their parents before they start to attend and has discussions with them on a regular basis so as to keep up to date. This ensures specific health and dietary requirements are appropriately met. The childminder prepares fresh food, such as vegetables and fruit. Drinks are freely available during the day, which promotes children's well-being. Children have their own individual cups, which they helped to choose. Older children sit at the table to eat, while younger children sit together in high chairs, making meals a sociable occasion with lots of chatter.

Children access some opportunities for physical play and fresh air every day, including walking to and from toddler groups and school. Children are able to be active or rest according to their individual needs and younger children sleep in line with their personal routines and parent's wishes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is a warm and welcoming environment for children. Their artwork is displayed giving them a sense of belonging. Older children have an area where they can do their homework undisturbed. There are good arrangements in place to keep children safe in the event of a fire. The childminder knows how she would get out of the house in an emergency, she practises this on a regular basis with the children, so as to raise their awareness of what to do. The childminder takes further appropriate safety measures, for example, fireguards are securely fitted, smoke alarms are in place and regularly checked.

A wide range of developmentally appropriate equipment and toys, which are in a safe, well maintained condition are provided to promote children's development and welfare. Toys are stored in large stackable plastic storage boxes with lids. Even the youngest children are able to access them independently, whilst ensuring their safety and keeping smaller items accessible to older children only.

Children are well protected as the childminder demonstrates a satisfactory awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect, and the procedure to follow should she have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has written plans in place, which she displays, to promote children's overall development. These are very flexible and she is happy to follow the children's lead if they decide they wish to do another activity. Good support is given, which nurtures children's growing independence, for example, even the youngest children are able to help themselves to the very well organised resources. This along with 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 sits on the floor with the children and involves herself in their play as they take their pushchairs to the shops or build with brightly coloured blocks. Children giggle happily as they push the wooden train over the bridge and it falls off the track.

The childminder communicates very well with the children, she knows them very well and offers comforters and cuddles when she recognises they are beginning to feel tired or unwell. Their counting and colour recognition skills are promoted through various activities, including songs and rhymes. The childminder is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and is considering using it in her practice.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children have short visits with their parents before starting to attend, this 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. She has a range of resources available which complement this, helping to raise 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 good understanding of behaviour management strategies, which are age and developmentally appropriate, including distraction and simple explanations of why something is unacceptable. These methods of managing behaviour are discussed with parents before children start attending. This promotes continuity of care. The childminder has developed friendly relationships with parents and speaks to them daily to ensure they are informed of the activities their children have taken part in and how they have been generally.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

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. This also enables older children to do their homework or play with items such as small construction blocks, while younger children are present. The childminder plans her time to include opportunities for children to socialise at various crèches and toddler groups. 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 all mandatory training and some further training, including fire safety training in 2005 and has many years experience of caring for children. She has made links with other childminders. 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 further develop knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. She has appropriate child protection agency guidance in place and is aware of the correct procedure to follow, which has a positive impact on safeguarding children.

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 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):

- ensure that all records of accidents and medication are maintained confidentially
- ensure parents' written permission is in place to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

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