



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	310907
Inspection date	06 December 2006
Inspector	Margaret Shelborn
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 was registered in 1990. She lives with her son who is aged 17 in the Birstall area of Kirklees. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom facilities on the first floor are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding seven children on a full and part time basis. The childminder walks to the local school to take and pick children up. The childminder attends the local toddler group.

The childminder has two cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrated children are well protected from illness and infection because she follows good hygiene procedures and provides care from a clean and well maintained home. Children are encouraged to learn the importance of good personal hygiene by following the childminder's positive practice. For example, they do not fail to wash their hands before meals or after visiting the toilet. Children say if you do not wash your hands germs will get in to your tummy and make you poorly. The childminder implements effective cleaning routines to prevent cross contamination as food preparation areas are consistently cleaned throughout the day.

Opportunities for children to exercise and have fresh air are given high priority as they walk to and from school daily. They visit the park or play centres on most days where they have access to large equipment, such as climbing frames, slides and swings. Children rest and sleep according to their needs and parents' wishes.

The childminder takes account of children's special dietary requirements and is happy to work with parents as they provide all the meals for their children. Children are well nourished and are beginning to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. For example, drinks are available at snack and meal times and they know they can ask for a drink at any time. The childminder ensures all children have fresh fruit in their diet every day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very welcoming, childcare environment. Space is used constructively and children can independently select activities from a good range of quality toys and equipment, both indoors and outdoors. All furniture and equipment is appropriate for its purpose and is very well maintained.

The childminder identifies and minimises risks for all children in the home and uses equipment and resources well. Young children are beginning to understand about keeping safe and know how this can be achieved. Children are keen to say they hold the childminder's hand when out in the community and when crossing roads, they cross with the traffic warden crossing person to go to nursery or school. When out shopping in Birstall, they cross at the pelican lights when the little green man is on. When travelling in the car, all children have appropriate car seats and older children know they have to wear seat belts. All safety within the home is adhered to.

The childminder has all the necessary documentation in place to promote children's welfare. She holds a current first aid certificate. She has an emergency evacuation procedure in place and it is practised by the children every month ensuring children understand about safety. The dates and times are recorded after each practice.

The childminder has a clear understanding of child protection issues and periodically attends relevant training to update her knowledge of the procedures to follow. These procedures are also shared with parents through a child protection policy.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and content. They are confident and settled within an environment that is successfully planned to introduce them to a range of new and interesting experiences both indoors and outdoors. Children participate in activities, which are flexible and appropriate to meet their stages of development. Consistent support and praise from the childminder encourages children to become independent to learn what they can do and when to ask for help. They respond well to the childminder's guidance and respond with pleasure to the activities provided. They relate well to one another, show care and consideration and their behaviour is very good. Lunchtime is a sociable time as the children sit together to eat lunch that has been packed by parents, with lots of interaction as they talk about what each of them are eating.

Children's independence is developed because they make their own choices about their play from a good range of resources. Activities are directly linked to the individual needs and interests of children attending the setting. Therefore, children spend their time purposefully. They are motivated, sufficiently challenged and enjoy the play opportunities that are provided for them. For example, they became very creative with the modelling dough, making buns extending their play as one child says to another, 'don't touch the buns they have just come out of the oven and they are hot'. Children share and take turns with the utensils, they play very well together.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the setting and participate fully in all activities because the childminder values and respects their individuality. Children play with a good range of resources and take part in activities, which promote positive images of the wider world. For example, through imaginary play, dressing up in different ethnic outfits, having access to a choice of books, which include books about visits to the hospital, dentist and about people with disabilities. The childminder has experience of caring for children with special needs. The childminder's understanding of each child's needs is used to encourage a sense of security and belonging.

Children are given clear boundaries for behaviour and the childminder uses her experience well to provide a positive calm atmosphere in which children can feel relaxed and secure. Children behave well. The childminder helps them to negotiate and take responsibility for their own behaviour by supporting them, being a positive role model, and encouraging the children to help each other.

The childminder has a friendly and supportive relationship with parents. She frequently talks with them to keep them informed of their child's progress. This open communication results in children's needs being successfully addressed. The childminder keeps records of a child's

development which includes photographs of activities the children have been involved in. Policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children; they are regularly reviewed and shared with parents. Parents receive an introduction leaflet regarding her services. However, the childminder does not have the correct address of the regulator on her complaints procedure.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder manages her time effectively. As a result, the children receive the attention and care that they need to help them feel content and secure. She has a good understanding of child development and a high regard for the well-being of all children left in her care. The children feel at home and at ease with the well organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning.

Policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and used effectively to underpin the daily operation of the setting. Documentation is well ordered to enable the childminder to effectively meet the needs of the children. However, the childminder does not keep the children's personal documentation separate so it is kept confidential. The childminder fully understands the requirement to maintain confidentiality, therefore, in future they will be kept in a separate file and stored in a way that maximises children's privacy.

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 asked to personalise the complaints procedure to include the Ofsted's local regional centre contact details and record emergency evacuations. The childminder records emergency evacuation procedures with times and dates procedures are carried out. The childminder had personalised her complaints procedure after her last inspection. However, the regional office has moved, she therefore needs to include the address of what is now Ofsted's local regional centre.

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 the correct address of the regulator is on the complains procedure
- ensure children's personal information is filed confidentially.

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