



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	310010
Inspection date	22 December 2006
Inspector	Elaine Steedman

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 became registered in 1984. She lives with her husband at their home in Holyfields, West Allotment near Newcastle upon Tyne. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children aged under eight years. She currently cares for four children aged under eight years and also cares for one child aged over eight years.

Minded children have access to the ground floor lounge-diner, conservatory, kitchen, utility area and toilet. The rear garden is used for outdoor play. The premises are within walking distance of local transport, local schools, shops and a park.

The childminder makes use of local facilities and facilities further afield. Children take part in local walks, visits to fellow childminders to meet other children and outings to feed the ducks, to parks, the beach, soft play centres and childminder groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn to follow good personal hygiene routines. For example, the childminder provides children with personalised towels and fun soap to actively encourage them to wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food and after taking part in outdoor activities. She helps younger children to wash their hands and gives children clear explanations about why it is important to develop good personal hygiene habits. The childminder's effective maintenance arrangements ensure the environment is clean and hygienic and she employs good strategies to prevent the spread of infection. For example, by observing incubation periods for infectious diseases and using disposable gloves.

Health records are organised and well maintained enabling the childminder to effectively keep parents informed about their child's well-being and cater for children's individual health needs. Children's health is further protected by the childminder having the relevant first aid qualification, however, there is no system for recording parental acknowledgement of any medicines that have been administered to children.

The childminder has a clear healthy eating policy and a good understanding of healthy diets for children. She provides them with balanced, nutritious snacks and meals. Children have opportunities to learn about the benefits of a healthy diet when the childminder discusses healthy eating and bakes healthy recipes with them. Children are actively encouraged to drink water and are provided with healthy snacks including fresh fruit and banana cake made from a parent's healthy recipe. The childminder takes into account children's individual needs and complies with parental wishes.

Children's health is further promoted by having good opportunities to regularly exercise in the fresh air. Children play in the garden with outdoor toys which encourage their physical development and participate in a range of outdoor activities, for example, daily walks and outings.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and very comfortable home. The home is well organised for childcare and children can reach their play resources easily and move around safely. Regular, effective maintenance ensures the good quality toys and equipment remain safe for children's use.

Children's safety is well promoted through the childminder's effective supervision and security measures. She has good safety procedures in place to minimise hazards to children and keeps a range of safety information and emergency contact details. She uses safety equipment effectively, such as socket covers and cabinet locks. Through discussions with the childminder, children have good opportunities to learn about dangers and how to stay safe. The childminder explains to children how to take care of themselves. For example, how to prevent falls by

avoiding climbing on furniture, to avoid eating when in a moving vehicle, how to cross roads safely and not to talk to unknown adults and to stay with the childminder when on outings.

Children's welfare is well protected by the childminder's clear child protection policy and her good understanding of child protection issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of child development and very good relationships with the children. She plans good routines to help children to feel confident and secure and presents children with a variety of opportunities to enjoy themselves and learn through play. Children benefit from the childminder enthusiastically joining in their activities, asking them questions to extend their learning and listening and talking to them about their interests. She matches play activities and toys well to children's learning and developmental needs and keeps lists of the children's favourite activities. Children are encouraged to develop their social skills through playing with other children, sharing toys and taking turns. Children are well occupied, very happy in their play and have good opportunities to develop their imagination and practise their developing skills.

Children choose independently from a wide range of easily accessible, developmentally appropriate, good quality, stimulating toys and activities. For example, play people and small world imaginative toys, construction, role play toys, manipulative toys, games, art and craft activities, paints and play dough. Children have opportunities to read stories, bake and listen to music tapes and sing action songs with the childminder.

Children enjoy a good range of outdoor activities, for example, using a variety of outdoor play equipment in the garden, daily walks and a variety of outings including visits to other childminders and minded children, soft play centres, the beach, parks and to feed the ducks.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder welcomes all children and respects their differing needs. She uses the information she collects about each child to effectively address their individual needs. Children have access to all play resources and equipment and are encouraged in their choices. Children learn about their own community and the wider world through discussion with the childminder and local outings. They have access to a range of resources and activities showing positive images of diversity, however, opportunities to learn about diversity are not as well developed as the rest of the provision.

Children have very good relationships with the childminder and behave very well. The childminder is relaxed, warm and very affectionate towards the children and the children respond likewise. The childminder acts as a positive role model, enthusiastically praising children's efforts and treating them respectfully. She has a good behaviour management policy and her house rules are shared with parents and children. She successfully uses developmentally appropriate strategies, such as positive praise and encouraging self-discipline, to manage children's

behaviour. Children learn about reasonable behaviour boundaries and to share and take turns. Children are very well settled, very happy and enjoy being with the childminder who is very attentive to their needs.

The childminder has good arrangements for promoting children's care, such as children's introductory visits with their parents. She works very closely with parents who make very positive comments about her service, the high level of support she gives them and her reliability. She has very positive relationships with them and communicates with them regularly about their children and the service. For example, through sharing daily diaries, displaying notices and providing parents with copies of her comprehensive policies.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides. The childminder has completed the required training and children benefit from her commitment to regularly updating her training. Children's needs are well supported by the childminder's effective organisation of space, resources and routines and children have easy access to the facilities and equipment they need.

All the required records are held and are well organised and up to date, and are shared with parents. The childminder regularly communicates with parents who comment that they are kept well informed about their children. The childminder gives parents a detailed verbal report when they collect their children. Good security measures are observed to protect confidentiality.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder has satisfactorily addressed all previous recommendations. An appropriate medication log is held and has been completed correctly. A wide range of toys is available including those suitable for older children. These are visible to children and easily accessible enabling children to make their own choices. A valid Public Liability Insurance certificate is displayed. A range of play resources reflecting different abilities has been obtained including books, a play hospital, disabled figures and wheelchairs.

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):

- provide a system for recording parental signatures to acknowledge any medication that has been administered to a child
- develop further the existing opportunities for children to learn about diversity.

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