



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY335535
Inspection date	13 February 2007
Inspector	Lynne Pope
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 2006. She lives with her partner and three children aged seven, nine and eleven years in the Penine Drive area of Peterlee, County Durham. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available 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 all day. She cares for two children over eight years after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group and takes children to the local library and park. The family has a cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well presented, clean home where they are protected from the spread of infection. Parents are made aware of what the expectations are regarding what to do if their child is ill. Arrangements have been made with another childminder to care for children should the childminder or her family be ill or have an emergency. The childminder has gathered information about children's individual needs regarding diet. She makes young children comfortable as they are given their meals. Children respond well by being relaxed and settled. Drinks are always available, ensuring that children's individual needs are met.

Children have regular access to the outdoors as they are taken for walks in the pushchair each day. There is plenty of space available in the home for children to learn to move their bodies and explore their environment. They are able to rest or be active according to their needs. Relevant records are in place for accidents and the administration of medication to protect children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment. The living room is made welcoming for children with resources easily accessible in storage boxes. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. The childminder identifies and minimises risks around the home. This means that children are able to move around safely and freely. They are able to rest safely as the childminder monitors them as they sleep. Children are kept safe on outings through the good procedures the childminder has in place.

The childminder has liaised with the local fire authority who have carried out a fire safety check on her home. Advice has been received on emergency evacuation procedures. Children are well protected by the childminder, who is confident and secure in her knowledge of child protection policies and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has a calm, confident manner when caring for children. This results in children being content and settled. She uses good procedures to find out about what they can do through a staged introduction to herself and her home. This helps to settle them well. Activities are specific to the child's age and ability. For example, she uses the baby gym and toys suitable for babies. The childminder sits on the floor at child level, supporting babies physically and joining in with their play. Resources are colourful and stimulating for children, and are within easy reach so that children can make their own choices, therefore learning to be independent. They examine them closely and learn that when a button is pressed, it will make a sound. The

childminder reassures children that she is there by talking to them while they play, encouraging them as she praises them for their efforts.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder helps children to learn about a wider world. They learn about the local community as they are taken for regular walks. They socialise with other children at toddler group. However, resources for the children do not reflect positive images of religion, culture, disability and gender roles. Children show a sense of belonging in the setting, settling well and making choices about what they do. They are included in a wide variety of experiences, encouraging a sense of achievement and enjoyment. A good relationship is developed between the childminder and children. Consistent boundaries are set and good behaviour encouraged through praise, with the result that children learn to manage their own behaviour.

A good relationship has been established between the childminder and parents. Children's individual needs are discussed with parents before they attend. This enables her to offer the child appropriate support. Written feedback is given to parents on a daily basis, which enhances their child's development.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides. Children's care is enhanced by good organisation. Good daily routines allow children to experience a range of exciting activities in the home and wider community. They feel at home and at ease in the well organised environment. There is a good balance of access to indoor and outdoor activities to extend children's learning. The childminder has attended a first aid course, so that she is aware of what to do if a child is injured. The childminder uses policies and procedures well to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Accurate and up to date records are in place for the care of the children.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- extend resources further, to include positive images of disability, religion, culture and gender roles

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