



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	311591
<b>Inspection date</b>	27 March 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Cathryn Parry
<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 registered in 1990. She lives with her husband and daughter aged 15 years and their adult daughter. They live in the residential area of Felling in Gateshead. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor of the childminder's house are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children under eight years. She also cares for children aged over eight years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends the local parent and toddler group.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children flourish as they access daily opportunities for physical play, including riding tricycles in the garden and going for walks. Planned activities, such as using hoops as stepping stones and moving to music encourage children's coordination. They are active or restful through choice and babies sleep in line with their individual needs and parents' wishes. The childminder actively manages a superb balance of meeting parental wishes, and encouraging nutritious snacks, such as fresh fruit and vegetables. Children have a growing awareness of healthy food options, which is fostered through positive, appropriate discussions with the childminder. They have regular drinks of water, diluted juice or milk, which quenches their thirst and benefits their health.

Children are encouraged to learn about good personal hygiene through well-planned activities and routines. They have individual hand towels and hairbrushes and have attended workshops on why they need to keep their teeth clean. This has a positive impact on encouraging healthy lifestyle habits. The childminder's very good relationship with parents, effective procedures and relevant training ensure children are cared for well should they become ill. This reduces the risk of the spread of infection. All relevant documentation with regard to health, including specific dietary needs and consent forms are in place and up to date. These positively safeguard children's well-being. However, one of the accident forms was not countersigned by a parent to acknowledge they had been informed of the incident. This has a negative impact on children's welfare.

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

The provision is good.

Children are safeguarded well as the childminder's home is secure at all times. This is supplemented with effective procedures for adults collecting children. Sash locks on both the front and back doors stop children from leaving the house, as well as preventing strangers from entering. Regular risk assessments both indoors and out, minimise the risk of accidental injury effectively. All children are able to explore confidently using high quality resources appropriate to their age and stage of development. They are able to move freely as there is adequate space, which is clean and well maintained. This reduces the risk of accidents. Those who go on outings are kept safe. They are supervised closely and good practice is encouraged, including holding hands.

All safety equipment is in place reducing the risk of accidents. This includes electrical socket covers, a carbon monoxide detector and fireguard. Children's knowledge about personal safety is encouraged by gentle reminders to use the Green Cross Code, regular fire drill practices and discussions about the hazards of fireworks. Older children have also been instrumental in developing an emergency evacuation plan. This positively contributes to them developing a sense of danger and how to keep themselves safe. The childminder has attended relevant child protection training and demonstrates a sound understanding of associated issues. Children are

cared for in an environment which is comfortable and secure. Risks are identified successfully, addressed and minimised effectively.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has attended training on the 'Birth to three matters' framework and the Foundation Stage. She shows a comprehensive understanding of how to plan activities and experiences to ensure all children meet their full potential. Written journals for each of the children are completed weekly, including photographs and written evidence. These effectively show individual progress. Children are highly motivated to play with a wide variety of toys and activities. These offer appropriate challenge for their age and stage of development. Effective use is made of the local area giving children a breadth of opportunities. Examples of this are trips to the park, library, farm and fire station. Individual interests are pursued really well, for instance, with the provision of interesting activities. One child's interest in how things grow was encouraged with digging and planting in the garden, whilst another's curiosity in ice involved exploring frozen puddles. This stimulates children's curiosity and increases their knowledge.

All children's communication skills are fostered very well through various activities, including songs, rhymes and sharing books. This results in competent speakers and listeners. Mathematical concepts are consistently encouraged as the children discuss how long the fishing rod is, and the height of the rocket. They delight in using their imagination as they dress up, use boxes as boats and build with the blocks. A wide variety of creative activities, including painting, cutting, sticking and manipulating play dough promote children's self-expression whilst having fun. Children's all round development is fostered very well. The childminder effectively extends children's learning and development by being actively involved in their play. Consequently, children are happy, very settled and thoroughly enjoy being with her.

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

The provision is good.

The premises are made welcoming and friendly to children and parents. Effective support is given, which nurtures children's independence. They are encouraged to put their own coats and shoes on and cut the fruit for snack time. The childminder has experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities and liaises with other professionals to meet individual needs. She values and respects children's differences and encourages everyone to play a full part in the childminding setting. This raises self-confidence. Activities are adapted to ensure all children can participate. This includes providing tactile games for those who are sight impaired. The childminder's confident approach to equal opportunities actively contributes to children's positive attitudes to the wider community. This is complemented with a selection of resources reflecting different cultures and opportunities to celebrate different festivals. However, there are very few positive images of people with disabilities. This has a negative impact on raising children's awareness and understanding of difference.

The childminder shows a sound knowledge of behaviour management, giving good examples of how she would approach a variety of situations for children of different ages. Children are encouraged to consider the consequences of their words and actions for themselves and others. Effective partnership with parents and carers ensures individual needs are met well, which promotes stability. The childminder talks to them on a daily basis and provides written daily diaries to ensure they are fully informed of their child's day.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's play opportunities are maximised through the effective organisation of space, time and resources. Children benefit from accessing a specific playroom, as well as using the lounge and kitchen. Consequently, they can play alone or with others. They have opportunities for quieter activities, boisterous play and creative experiences. The flexible routine incorporates visits to the local parent and toddler group, which promotes children's social skills. Low-level storage of resources encourages all children to participate. This inspires free choice and independence.

The childminder's ongoing commitment to training has a significantly positive impact on the high quality of care provided. She shows a raised awareness of the effect of activities and experiences on children's overall development. The childminder and her family have undertaken suitable vetting procedures to ensure children are safeguarded well. She is aware of her current registration restrictions and adheres to them well. This promotes children's welfare. All legally required documentation is in place and implemented effectively. This positively contributes to children's overall well-being. The childminder shows a good understanding of the need for confidentiality to ensure children's privacy is maintained.

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 continue to update knowledge on childcare. She has consistently continued to attend training, which has a positive impact on the high quality of care provided.

## **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 parents or carers sign to acknowledge they have been informed of any accidents
- further develop equal opportunities resources showing positive images of people with disabilities.

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)