



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	312652
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 January 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Elaine Marie McDonnell

<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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since July 1995. She lives with her adult daughter in the Acklam area of Middlesbrough. The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding purposes and there is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. There are currently seven children on roll aged from 14 months to 14 years, all of whom are cared for on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children on a regular basis and is a member of an approved childminding network.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows appropriate health and hygiene procedures, such as ensuring that furniture and equipment are kept clean and are cleaned immediately after use. Children are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times throughout the daily routine and older children are beginning to understand why they do this. Relevant procedures are in place to protect children's overall health, for example, the exclusion of children with infectious illnesses. Accident and medication records are available, are correctly completed and up to date.

Children are appropriately nourished; they receive varied meals and snacks depending on the time of day that they attend. Lunch time is observed to be a relaxed occasion with children chatting to the childminder about what they have been doing at nursery during the morning. The childminder obtains written information from parents about children's individual dietary requirements or family preferences and ensures that these are met. Children are beginning to learn about healthy living during discussions with the childminder about healthy foods to eat and what sorts of food are given occasionally as a treat.

Children have appropriate opportunities to enjoy physical activity. For example, they have access to a range of large physical play equipment in the rear garden, which are mainly used during the summer months. Children also have opportunities to be active indoors when dancing to different television programmes. They also walk to and from nearby schools on a regular basis. Children rest and sleep according to their needs and individual routines and the childminder is well aware of individual sleeping patterns.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Some appropriate steps have been taken to ensure that children are cared for in a safe environment. For example, fire guards, a fire blanket and smoke alarms are in place. A first aid kit is available but is currently not well stocked. Suitable restraints are used to promote children's safety when they are in high chairs. The premises and rear garden are kept secure, however, the water butt is accessible to children and poses a risk to safety. The childminder has taken steps to ensure that children are unable to lock themselves in the toilet, however, there is an accessible lock on the bathroom door. A knife block is stored within children's reach in the kitchen and poses a danger. Children learn to keep themselves safe when involved in fire drills and when the childminder explains simple safety steps, such as not to stand up on dining chairs.

The environment is warm and welcoming for the children with a range of toys readily available for them. They have easy access to a suitable range of toys, equipment and furniture. The childminder ensures that resources remain safe and suitable for children's use by discarding any broken items which cannot be repaired. Toys are washed, usually as part of an activity with the children helping, mostly in the summer time.

Children are appropriately protected as the childminder understands her role in relation to child protection issues and is able to put local procedures into practice when necessary. The childminder is unsure if she has a copy of the government booklet in relation to child protection issues. She demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the different areas of abuse and of possible signs and is aware of who to contact to pass on any concerns.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are involved in a good range of activities that cover all areas of development. For example, they enjoy using play dough, jigsaw puzzles and drawing. They have easy access to toys that are stored in the lounge and the dining room and also use building bricks, books, dolls, a dolls house and dressing up clothes. Activity toys are readily available for younger children. The childminder keeps a basic diary of play experiences that children have been involved in and photographs are also available which show children enjoying water play and physical play activities in the garden, as well as digging the soil.

Children show an interest in what they do and enjoy the activities and resources available. They respond appropriately to challenge and concentrate for extended periods when using the play dough. They have opportunities to be independent and use their initiative when deciding what to do and what to play with. Children are acquiring new skills and knowledge, such as social skills and imagination, when dressing up and pretending to be nurses.

Children have opportunities to learn about their own cultural traditions when participating in activities relating to Christmas, Easter and when celebrating birthdays. There are limited planned activities to help children learn about wider society. However, some basic resources which reflect diversity are available, such as a doll and a book.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Equal opportunities are appropriately promoted as all children are included and involved. Their individual needs are met and the childminder ensures that resources and activities to suit different age groups are readily available. Various games are also available to help older children to cooperate and play together. The childminder has a positive attitude towards caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and has cared for children with additional needs in the past.

Children enjoy being with the childminder and enjoy the activities available; they are settled and happy. They make positive relationships with adults and peers and are well behaved.

The childminder works well with parents and carers and obtains written information about children's individual requirements. Various written consent forms are also obtained from parents and promote working in partnership. Parents are kept informed of their child's development and progress through regular discussions with the childminder.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures that adults caring for children are suitable to do so and that children's welfare is safeguarded. She has updated her first aid certificate since the last inspection. The childminder has high regard for the wellbeing of all children and they receive good adult support and attention. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Attendance records indicate that adult to child ratios are maintained and registers are up to date and accurate. All documents and records required for the safe and efficient management of the provision are available, well kept and up to date. The registration certificate is clearly displayed for parents in the lounge.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve safety by completing an appropriate first aid course and by ensuring that children cannot access the lock on the bathroom door. She now has an up to date first aid certificate and has ensured that children cannot access the lock on the toilet door. She has agreed to also ensure that they cannot access the lock on the bathroom door, as these areas are separate.

The childminder was also asked to improve the range of resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Some action has been taken to address this but more resources and activities to promote children's understanding of wider society would be beneficial.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection 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 satisfactory. 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 the first aid box contains items as determined on the first aid course and are checked frequently and replaced as necessary
- ensure that the water butt in the rear garden and the knife block in the kitchen do not pose a hazard to children.

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)