



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312679
Inspection date	14 February 2007
Inspector	Ann Coggin
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 been registered since January 1997. She lives with her husband and son aged 14 years in the Linthorpe area of Middlesbrough. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding purposes. There is a yard to the rear of the property for outdoor play. The family pets are a rabbit, bird and a dog.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding six children aged from ten months to six years on a part time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm clean home which contributes to their good health. Systems are in place to promote children's health needs, for example, appropriate documentation for the recording of accidents, the administering of medication and the exclusion of sick children. However, permission to seek emergency treatment or advice has not been obtained from all parents.

Children are effectively learning about personal hygiene through the childminder setting a good example, such as, washing her own hands after changing nappies and gently reminding children, and discussing with them the reasons for hand washing. Children know to wash their hands after using the toilet and after stroking the family pets. The childminder reduces the risk of cross infection by providing children with individual face cloths and changing hand towels twice a day.

Children's dietary needs are met through the childminder working closely with parents to provide healthy meals and snacks which meet individual needs. The childminder ensures children have fresh fruit and vegetables daily and discusses with them the importance of eating healthy foods helping to promote their understanding of healthy eating. Children have easy access to fresh drinking water from a water cooler with older children helping themselves.

Children enjoy a good range of outdoor activities which contribute to their good health. Daily activities include opportunities for children to be outdoors, for example, they walk to school daily, visit local parks and soft play sessions.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

There are written procedures in place for ensuring the risk of accidental injury to children is minimised. Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and well organised environment where the childminder places a high priority on safety. Children are able to move safely, freely and independently around the home. The childminder gives priority to maintaining children's safety, for example, the use of stair gates to prevent children accessing the kitchen and the stairs and the use of Astroturf when the children are playing outside. An emergency evacuation procedure is in place and regular fire drills are held with the children to help raise their awareness of fire safety. Appropriate fire safety equipment is in place. The childminder helps children understand how to keep themselves safe when out and about, for example, she promotes road safety. Children are learning they must stop, look and listen to ensure that there are no cars coming. She also reminds children they must not wander away from her and never talk to strangers.

Children independently select activities from a good range of safe, well maintained, good quality toys and resources which meet safety standards. They are regularly checked by the childminder and are well organised in child height containers to encourage independent access. The

childminder carefully supervises the children's choice of toys to ensure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder has all the required documentation in place to safeguard children. She holds a current first aid certificate and she has a good knowledge and understanding of her responsibilities with regard to child protection issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care where routines have been established to promote children's sense of security and develop their confidence. They play confidently together initiating and extending their own play and learning. Children benefit from good levels of adult support and encouragement. The childminder gets down on the floor to play and offers lots of praise. For example, "well done" is said to the baby as she tries to pull herself up. Children's self-esteem is developing as a result of the childminder valuing what they do, for example, children's art work displayed throughout the childminder's home. Children enjoy a wide range of interesting and enjoyable activities both inside and outside the home that extend their learning effectively across all areas of development. For example, children go to toddler groups, soft play sessions and visit museums and the local park.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child development which means children's emotional, social, physical and intellectual capabilities are promoted. Activities are well planned using the birth to three matters framework and the foundation stage curriculum, they are flexible allowing children to make choices. The childminder completes child development records which assist future planning and these are shared with parents.

Positive and warm relationships have been established and children are happy, relaxed and settled and this increases children's sense of trust and promotes their self confidence. Younger children benefit from the childminder talking to them, building their language skills and self esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the childminders home and participate fully in all activities as they are valued and respected as individuals. Children's needs are well met and their development supported with the childminder acknowledging each child and following routines enabling them to feel confident in accepting new experiences. Children have the opportunities to learn about their local community by taking part in outings to local parks and other places of interest in the area. Children are gaining a clear and positive view of the wider world and have good opportunities to develop positive attitudes towards others through accessing a varied range of resources reflecting diversity. For example, books, dolls, jigsaws and posters.

The childminder is a good role model for children's behaviour. She talks calmly to them at all times and responds affectionately towards them. The good behaviour management strategy together with a range of stimulating experiences has a positive impact on children's behaviour.

There are clear and consistent boundaries in place which ensures children know what is expected of them. House rules are displayed and the older children are gently reminded to follow them. The use of positive strategies for managing behaviour helps children learn to understand right from wrong and promotes children's self esteem.

Children benefit from the good relationships the childminder has established with parents. Parents receive good written information about the childminder's policies and procedures before the childminding arrangement commences. Parents are fully informed daily about their children's care and welfare through written diaries enabling the childminder to meet individual children's needs and to contribute towards the continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit through a well organised and child friendly environment. They are settled and relaxed with the childminder resulting in children being confident and secure in themselves and with the childminder and initiating and developing their own play and learning. There is good play space and toys and resources are organised to allow children to access them easily. The care of the younger children is enhanced by the childminder's positive attitude towards training and she is currently working towards an NVQ level 3 qualification.

Policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the care, welfare and learning of the children. This contributes to the continuity in the children's care. Records and documentation are organised and stored appropriately to maintain confidentiality. However, the complaints procedure needs revising in order to meet new regulations.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has developed her escape plan by displaying her fire evacuation procedure and practicing an emergency evacuation procedure with the children to help raise their awareness of fire safety. She has also obtained written consent from most parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

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 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):

- request written permission from all parents to seek emergency treatment medical advice or treatment
- develop the complaints procedure to include a complaints log

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