



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312725
Inspection date	23 January 2007
Inspector	Josephine Ann Northend
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 has been a registered childminder since May 1994. She lives with her husband and their adult daughter in a house in Guisborough. It is within easy reach of local amenities. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding purposes. The small front bedroom is also registered to be used for overnight care. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

There are currently seven children on roll under eight years, all attending part time. The childminder also cares for children over eight years.

The childminder is a member of 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 and sense of security. The childminder understands the importance of good hygiene routines to protect the children's health, and the children develop independence in personal care with good encouragement and support, for example, when washing their own hands. Satisfactory procedures followed by the childminder result in children being protected from illness and the spread of infection.

Children take part in regular outdoor activities on outings and in the fully enclosed garden, including bikes, ball games and use of large and small equipment all encouraging their physical development. The childminder has a good understanding of children's physical development, providing activities to challenge and encourage them to take the next steps. They walk to and from school each day and visit local parks and amenities regularly. Children are able to rest and be active according to their individual needs.

Regular drinks are offered to the children who also benefit from being offered varied and generally healthy meals and snacks. The childminder works closely with parents to provide food and drink which children enjoy, meets their dietary needs and takes into account their individual needs and preferences. Regular drinks are offered and children's independence is promoted when the childminder gives them choices of what they would like to eat and drink.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a warm family home where effective safety measures allow them to move freely and explore independently. The childminder has sound systems in place to ensure children's safety inside and outside the home, for example, as she promotes safety when transporting children in a vehicle.

Equipment is stored well at child level which allows even the youngest to make choices for themselves and direct their own play. Toys are available for all ages, and in sufficient quantities to ensure children enjoy a wide range of activities to promote all areas of their development.

The childminder has a good understanding of her responsibilities with regards to child protection. All required procedures and documentation are in place. This means children's welfare is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are involved in an excellent range of activities and outings that promote learning in all areas of their development. The childminder plans an appealing range of activities which take into account children's individual interests. She observes the children and is very aware

of their individual progress and achievements. The childminder demonstrates an excellent understanding of how children learn, and makes wonderful use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework in order provide a range of stimulating and appropriate activities. Photographs are available for parents, showing their child playing and what the children are achieving.

The high quality relationships between the childminder and the children means the children are well settled, content and secure in her care. The outstanding adult-child interactions support children's communication skills extremely well, for example, lunchtime is a pleasant social occasion where children learn to take turns in conversation. The childminder shows keen interest in what the children have to say, this contributes to their sense of belonging. The childminder extends the children's thoughts and ideas through sharing her own experiences.

The consistent support, praise and encouragement given to the children means they learn to be increasingly independent, for example, as they are encouraged to go to the bathroom on their own. This promotes their confidence and self-esteem extremely well. Children are acquiring new skills and knowledge all the time, and respond to the challenges while receiving excellent support and attention from the childminder. They learn to name colours and count while shape sorting and problem solving with age appropriate puzzles.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a good range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity. She actively promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, resulting in all children feeling valued and free from discrimination. The childminder has a very good understanding of each child as an individual and uses this to plan and resource activities which all children find enjoyable and interesting.

Children behave very well. The childminder helps them to negotiate and take responsibility for their own behaviour by supporting them, being a positive role model, and encouraging the children to help each other. They learn to work harmoniously together and develop respect for each other.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the childminder has developed with their parents. Parents' views about their children's needs are actively sought before the child starts. Parents are kept verbally informed about their child's day and activities. This enables the childminder to meet each child's individual needs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder's professional attitude to her role as a childminder is reflected throughout the provision. The 'Birth to three matters' framework is used extremely well to plan and provide a range of stimulating and appropriate activities. Attendance at many additional training courses has increased the childminder's knowledge and skills, and has allowed her to develop her practice.

Children feel very much at home and at ease in the well-organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate their own play and learning. Provision for overnight care is good, however it has not yet been used. Adult-child ratios are maintained and the childminder works well to enhance children's health, safety, enjoyment, overall achievement and contribution.

All documentation required for the safe and efficient management of the provision is available, well presented and up to date. Many additional good practice records are available. Parents receive comprehensive written information about the childminder and her provision, however the complaints policy does not show Ofsted's change of address and telephone number. The childminder effectively uses policies and procedures to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure the record of attendance clearly defines children's hours of attendance. The register now clearly indicates the times children arrive and depart. This promotes children's welfare.

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):

- update the complaints policy to show Ofsted's change of address.

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