



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY334759
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 February 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Pauline Pinnegar
<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 2006. She lives with her partner and four children aged 16, 14, nine and three years. They live in a house in the Grangetown area of Middlesbrough, close to local amenities, shops, schools and a library. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding plus the toilet which is located at first floor level. There is an enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. There are currently two children on roll aged two years and 14 years. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

The childminder actively promotes a healthy lifestyle by planning a varied range of activities in the fresh air each day, which contribute to keeping children fit and well. They enjoy walking in the local community and routinely visit the local park to use the large play equipment. During visits to the park, children play and like to run in the open spaces up and down the hills. Nature walks are also a feature of the setting where children feed the squirrels. Children also access the local soft play facility to develop their gross physical skills. Music and dance also feature indoors as children have fun, to interactive television programmes. The children can sleep according to their needs, and the childminder provides a quiet and calm environment where they can rest.

The children enjoy a wide variety of healthy foods and snacks; these include lots of fresh fruit, vegetables, and homemade stews. The childminder makes sure that the meals she makes for the children meet their individual dietary needs by seeking detailed information from parents about their children's likes and dislikes and any allergies or special dietary requirements. The childminder helps children to be independent when they eat encouraging them to help prepare their own sandwiches and cutting up fruit at snack time. This encourages them to make healthy choices. Healthy foods are discussed at meal times and children are gaining a growing awareness about healthy foods, such as wholemeal bread when making choices at meal times. Children are offered sugar free drinks.

Children's health is well protected due to the childminder's good procedures and hygiene practices. For example, the children are cared for in a clean and successfully maintained environment. The childminder follows good hygiene practices, such as using anti-bacterial spray to clean food preparation areas before use. Children's good health is promoted because they follow daily routines, such as hand washing before meals. Clean towels and wipes are used daily. The risk of cross infection is successfully minimised because the childminder has a clear policy for dealing with children when they are unwell and shares this with the parents. Successful systems are in place and are used to record accidents and medicines involving the children in the provision. The childminder holds a relevant first aid certificate and has this information displayed for parents.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the home, which is warm, welcoming and secure. They move freely and independently, accessing the resources available to them. Children use a broad range of toys and equipment, which meet safety standards, helping them to enjoy a wide variety of experiences safely. The available space is used effectively to provide safe play areas for children's different needs. Children are kept safe because the childminder has considered and minimised potential hazards on the premises and safety equipment is in place. For example, all electrical sockets are protected and household materials are out of children's reach. They learn to keep themselves safe as they hold the childminder's hand when out on visits and follow the simple

rules of looking and listening, when crossing roads. Smoke detectors and a fire blanket are in place and the childminder demonstrates an appropriate awareness of fire safety. However, the evacuation procedure does not include a practice fire drill to raise children's awareness of what to do should an emergency arise.

The childminder gives priority to keeping children safe and implements required health and safety procedures appropriately. She understands her responsibility to protect children but is familiar with the procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board which ensures children's safety. The childminder knows the common signs and symptoms displayed by children suffering abuse.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They enjoy a wide range of interesting activities, developing confidence as the childminder talks to them and shows interest in what they do. She finds out what they enjoy and plans experiences around their interests. Toys are stored in boxes, which are located to the rear of the main living room. They are easily accessible promoting children's independence.

The childminder interacts quietly and calmly with children, providing plenty of praise and positive encouragement, which helps them develop high levels of confidence and self-esteem. Children freely approach the childminder, who responds with affection and cuddles. Children talk with confidence, telling the childminder they want to play with the play dough. They use their imagination well in role play as they feed and change the dolls. Children acquire new knowledge and skills as the childminder promotes early mark making skills as they practise writing the letters of their name.

Activities are carefully planned to suit children's individual needs, and the familiarity of favourite toys and books provides comfort and security. The childminder completes simple developmental assessments of children's achievements which helps her to plan the next steps in their development. She has a good understanding of the Birth to three matters framework and has successfully incorporated this into her planning. Planning is flexible to suit children's needs but usually includes one focussed activity either indoors or outdoors each day. Activities are topic based and children have explored concepts of floating and sinking, shadows, and investigated conkers. Art and craft activities are also a feature of the setting and children enjoy making collage pictures. Outings in the community include trips to local toddler groups and the library which promotes their social skills.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued as individuals so that their needs are met effectively. They receive support and encouragement as they play, providing reassurance which promotes their confidence and self-esteem. Rules are simple but clear and positive, the childminder explains the reasons for them so that children begin to understand. They are encouraged to help to tidy away toys.

All children are welcomed into the setting and participate fully in all activities because the childminder values and respects their individuality. Children are beginning to learn about the wider world through sensitive discussions with the childminder, who also acts as a positive role model. Children feel a sense of belonging and are secure in their surroundings because the childminder welcomes them as part of her family. The childminder provides a range of multicultural equipment, such as books and small world equipment. Children's awareness of their local community is raised by regular outings to the shops, the park and local groups. The childminder has a basic understanding of issues relating to the care of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The childminder works closely with parents to understand children's needs and ensure appropriate links with home, so that they feel secure and included. Settling in procedures are clearly defined and encourage parents to ensure their child is happily settled before they leave them. The childminder shares information about her practice and ensures there is sufficient time to give feedback each day about children's experiences. Parents receive information about policies and procedures. However, the complaints procedure lacks some detail and is not written in line with changes to procedures.

Children behave well. The childminder uses positive strategies for managing behaviour. She helps them to take responsibility for their own behaviour by supporting them, and being a positive role model. She consistently reinforces boundaries giving children clear messages of right and wrong.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare is promoted in the well organised and safe environment. Their individual needs are supported by flexible planning. Routines are responsive to individual needs and effectively support children's care and development. Resources are accessible, so that children can independently select their own activities and plan their own play. The childminder has completed all mandatory training. The children feel at home and at ease with the childminder and in the environment. This means they are confident and can initiate their own play and learning. Adult to child ratios are maintained with good organisation of time to allow children one to one attention to meet their individual needs.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by appropriate implementation of required policies and procedures. The childminder has most required documentation in place and available for inspection. However, the record of children's attendance is not maintained accurately. There are effective systems in place for the sharing of information with parents about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. Agreements reached with parents influence her day to day practice so that parents' wishes are respected and children's needs are met.

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

### **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 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):

- develop the emergency evacuation to include a practice fire drill
- develop a complaints procedure for parents
- ensure the attendance record is kept up to date daily.

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)