



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	310051
Inspection date	29 April 2005
Inspector	Andrea, Jane Lockyer

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 outstanding. 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 since 1995. She lives with her husband and adult daughter. They live in a three bedroom semi-detached property close to the sea front, in Whitley Bay North Tyneside. Local amenities and public transport systems are within walking distance. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, children do not access the upper floors. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family have a pet cockatiel.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years, and she is currently caring for seven children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association, and she receives support and training opportunities from the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive because the childminder follows highly effective procedures and practises, which meet children's physical, nutritional and health needs. The exceptional adult support and guidance helps children gain an excellent understanding of hygiene and a desire to become increasingly independent in their personal care, for example, they willingly clean the table before eating and know why it has to be cleaned, and they voluntarily clean their teeth after eating. Their clear understanding of why they must wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet reduces the risk of cross infection.

Children learn to understand the benefit of a healthy diet from an early age. They are able to make choices from a variety of healthy snacks, and help themselves to easily accessible drinks throughout the day. Older children are involved in making healthy choices by helping to prepare snacks.

In depth discussions with parents and comprehensive records ensure that children are provided with a healthy, nutritious diet which, takes account of children's individual dietary needs and parental wishes.

Children enjoy, explore and develop physical control, in stimulating indoor and outdoor experiences. Daily visits to local parks, bounce and rhyme sessions and soft play, improve children's physical skills. The childminders excellent understanding of the developmental stages of the individual children she is caring for, means that the youngest of children are confident to try new skills, ask for help and set their own limits within a safe environment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because the childminder is extremely vigilant and uses highly effective risk assessments to reduce potential hazards both, in and out of the home. The childminder has an excellent understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits. This allows children to learn a sense of danger and knowledge about how to protect themselves from harm.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of stimulating and very high quality equipment and resources, which are appropriate to their age and stage of development, and provide an excellent balance of activities that promote learning in all areas.

Children are very well protected by the childminder, who has an excellent understanding of child protection procedures and gives top priority to children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy their time at the childminders, they are very confident and extremely happy. They achieve well because the childminder is highly skilled, and uses her knowledge of the children's developmental stages, to provide high quality care and learning experiences for the different range of children she is caring for.

Close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of self. Early communication skills are extremely well supported through high quality adult and child interactions.

Children relate very well to each other, and socialise with other children and adults through planned daily visits to local child orientated amenities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder provides an excellent range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world, and increase children's awareness of diversity and an understanding of others. Children learn about their local community through planned visits to places of interest such as, the beach and lighthouse, as well as regular outings to local parks, library and shops.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their individual needs are met well as they follow their normal daily routines as discussed with their parents. Children show care and concern for each other and play together harmoniously, their behaviour is exemplary. The childminder supports children in sharing, taking turns and helping one another. She has high and realistic expectations and sets consistent boundaries for all children, which help them learn to negotiate with others and take responsibility for their own behaviour. Children's understanding of right and wrong is increased as they respond to gentle reminders to care for each other.

An excellent partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well being at the childminders. Parents views about their children's needs and interests are actively sought before the child starts, and on a regular basis throughout their time there. Daily written and verbal information shared with parents ensures that they are kept very well informed about how their child is developing and progressing.

The childminder ensures that parents are informed about all aspects of the childminding practice and welfare of their child, by providing them with an extensive information package, which includes copies of all written policies and procedures and a personal portfolio.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The premises are effectively organised, indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. They are very confident and settled in their surroundings, and are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Children have the opportunity for rest, play, meals and going out which is organised around their normal daily routine.

Comprehensive policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. They are shared regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the provision and their child's activities. This ensures continuity in the children's care.

Children benefit from the highly skilled and knowledgeable childminder who, continually evaluates her practice and is committed to continuous improvement and development. She attends a variety of training courses to further develop her skills and knowledge, and has recently successfully completed the National Childminding Association Quality First Scheme.

The high quality of the provision means that the childminder meets the needs of the range of children, who attend, extremely well.

Improvements since the last inspection

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?
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The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk