

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	305742
<b>Inspection date</b>	08 June 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Ann Coggin
<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 a registered since September 2000. She lives with her husband and three grown-up children and a child aged 14 years in the High Grange area of Billingham. The ground floor, the upstairs bathroom and large back bedroom are used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outdoor play. The family pets are a dog and a parrot.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for four children under eight part time and four children before and after school. The childminder is registered to provide overnight care but is not currently doing so.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's dietary needs are satisfactorily met through the childminder providing healthy meals and snacks. Children have access to fresh drinking water throughout the day and are offered sugar free juice and milk at snack and meal times. The childminder ensures any individual dietary needs are met in line with requests from parents.

Children enjoy daily fresh air and exercise as they walk to school daily and play outdoors in the childminder's garden. There is suitable equipment provided, such as a small slide, a see-saw and a ball pool to help children develop their physical skills. They often visit the local park where they play football and basketball and use large climbing equipment. Children are able to rest or be active according to their individual needs.

Children are protected from infection and helped to stay healthy because the childminder promotes effective hand washing practices. She sets a good example as she lets children observe her washing her hands and gently reminds children and discusses with them in age-appropriate language why we need to wash our hands. The childminder has satisfactory procedures in place regarding sick children, administration of medication and recording accidents, and appropriate consents have been obtained. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate resulting in children being protected in the event of an accident.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment where most risks are identified and minimised, enabling them to move around independently. For example, stair gates are in place to prevent access to the upstairs and dangerous substances are inaccessible to children, however, some low level sockets pose a hazard as does the dog's feeding bowl. The required fire safety equipment is in place with smoke alarms tested on a regular basis. The childminder has practised an evacuation procedure with the children which means children are aware of what to do in the event of an emergency.

A satisfactory range of toys and equipment is stored at child level which allows children to make choices for themselves and direct their own play.

The childminder demonstrates a sound awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect, and the procedure to be followed should she have a concern.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled, relaxed and very much at home in their surroundings. Close and caring relationships have been developed between the childminder and the children as she is interested in the children and makes time to talk and listen to them, resulting in children approaching her with confidence. Routines have been established, which promotes children's sense of security and helps to develop their confidence.

Children enjoy playing with the toys provided; supported and encouraged by the childminder. They use a variety of resources, such as construction, blocks, cars, pretend food and books, which are suitable for their age and stage of development.

Young children are encouraged to develop their language skills as the childminder converses with them whilst they play together. She provides good eye contact, smiles and encouragement and repeats familiar words, such as their names and the name of the dog, and children respond with smiling and clapping their hands together with the childminder as they have a go at repeating the words. Children are actively encouraged to develop their independence, for example, crawling babies are persuaded to crawl for toys and resources as they are placed just out of reach.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met. She promotes equality of opportunity by welcoming all children into her home and ensures they all participate in activities, resulting in all children feeling valued. Children's awareness of their local community is raised by regular outings around the area, however, resources which reflect diversity are limited.

Children behave well. Consistent boundaries are in place and the children know the childminder means what she says. She adopts a firm but fair approach and takes into account the child's age and stage of development. Good manners are actively promoted, encouraging children to say please and thank you, and to care for each other and share toys and equipment.

Successful relationships with parents have been developed and good verbal communication each day helps to ensure children's individual needs are met. All parental consents are in place and contracts are reviewed regularly. A written complaints procedure is in place for parents, although Ofsted's contact details are incorrect and the complaints log does not respect confidentiality.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are settled with the childminder, resulting in them being happy in their play. There are effective systems in place for the daily sharing of information with parents contributing to continuity in the children's care. Children are well protected and cared for because all adults in the home have been appropriately vetted and the childminder has attended, and updated, all mandatory training, including first aid. The childminder has displayed her registration certificate and the Ofsted parental poster.

Most of the required documentation is in place and stored appropriately.

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 was asked to ensure children are provided with additional activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint and request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder has improved children's health by ensuring written parental permission in place for each child in her care to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Parents receive a written copy of the childminder's complaint procedure, however Ofsted details are incorrect. Children have access to a limited selection of resources which reflect diversity and the childminder has identified this as an area she wishes to develop.

## **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):

- continue to develop activities and resources to support children's understanding of diversity
- assess the risks in relation to exposed sockets and the dog's feeding bowl and take action to minimise these
- revise the written complaints procedure to ensure the correct details for Ofsted are available to parents and amend the complaints log to ensure confidentiality is maintained.

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)