

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	305813
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 April 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 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 registered since 1998. She lives with her two adult sons and younger son aged 10 years old. The family live in a house in the Hartburn area of Stockton on Tees. The house is situated within easy distance of local amenities, including schools and shops. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding plus an upstairs bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The family have one pet cat.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. There are currently four children on roll aged from 20 months to seven years old. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Accident and medication records fully meet requirements and are kept with a good regard for confidentiality. Children follow good health and hygiene practices as part of their everyday

routines, washing their hands effectively at appropriate times, using soap and separate paper towels. The childminder clearly understands health and hygiene guidelines and parents are informed that sick children cannot be cared for, so that children are protected from infection. Arrangements for first aid and administering medication are well considered and protect children effectively. The childminder has clear written agreements with parents regarding the administration of medication and written consent to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment is obtained. All children's individual health needs are met fully. Arrangements for eating and sleeping reflect the child's needs and parents' wishes.

The childminder negotiates arrangements for meals and drinks with parents. Currently parents provide packed lunches during the day. The childminder stores all food appropriately. Children enjoy a good variety of different fruits at snack time. The childminder introduces a range of different tastes, such as French bread and tortilla wraps. Children enjoy shopping trips to buy fruit for snack time and visit the local Asian food store to explore different spices. The childminder talks with children about healthy choices and encourages them to try new foods. She discourages too many sweet foods. Children are able to access drinks independently. Informative healthy eating posters are displayed in the play room.

Children enjoy lots of activities and outings in the fresh air. The childminder places emphasis on daily physical exercise, walking with the children from school to promote a healthy lifestyle. The childminder plans suitable activities to develop children's abilities and encourages independence to try out new skills. They frequently go to play in the park nearby, where they have great fun learning to use the large climbing equipment safely. Older children enjoy playing basketball, playing with skateboards and throwing bean bags and balls. Younger children regularly visit local groups where they have opportunities to develop their large physical skills. They also enjoy visiting the local soft play centre. Indoors the children enjoy music and dance using different parts of their body.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in an environment that is warm, welcoming and safe. It is brightly decorated with very attractive, professionally displayed art work and photographs, which effectively supports children's feelings of belonging. Children play with a very good range of suitable games and equipment that are easily accessible in the designated play room. They are encouraged to choose freely for themselves, which positively supports their growing independence.

Positive steps have been taken to ensure children are able to move around play areas independently. Potential hazards are appropriately addressed in order to maintain a secure environment both indoors and out. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they are involved in discussions and activities about safe practice. They regularly practise the evacuation procedure and older children are able to report which exits they use and what procedures to adopt as they leave the house. Children are actively encouraged to be aware of their own safety when out and about. For example, children practise road safety procedures and clear explanations are given to children about remaining close when visiting the local park and other public facilities. Children are encouraged to help to tidy away toys when they have finished, so the play space is safe. They enjoy a good balance between the freedom to explore and the childminder's setting of safe limits.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's awareness of her responsibilities within child protection procedures. She has attended recent training to enhance her understanding of the procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children Board, increasing her confidence in her own ability to protect children and keep them safe. She is fully familiar with recording requirements, for example, recording of existing injuries.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy spending time with the childminder. They establish good relationships with the childminder and each other. For example, very close and cooperative relationships develop between the children; they play consistently well together with contentious issues few and far between. Warm and caring relationships are very evident between the childminder, with positive interaction between them observed at all times. This undoubtedly supports their developing confidence and self-esteem. They develop confidence to play independently and the childminder is developing a basic planning structure to introduce variety into children's experiences. They enjoy broad and interesting activities. Resources are stored so that children can make choices in their play. The childminder plans opportunities for exploratory play, with paint, sand, water and dough. She is beginning to introduce ideas from the 'Birth to three matters framework' to help her enhance the play experiences of younger children, although she has not yet been able to attend any specific training.

Children's language skills develop well as the childminder talks with them all the time about what they are doing. They become engrossed in activities that interest them, like playing with the zoo animals and matching card games. They talk about their favourite cards, animals and pets at home. They enjoy colouring Easter pictures and recall enthusiastically the recent activity when they made Easter biscuits. Older children play cooperatively with board games taking turns and sharing. Children enjoy playing with the cars and building with bricks. They enjoy using their imagination in small world play and dressing up. Older children construct with junk materials and make paper mache models.

Children take part in a wealth of fun outings especially during the school holidays. They have taken part in trips to local museums, farms, local British Heritage establishments. They also enjoy fishing trips using small nets and strawberry picking days. Activities also include lunch out at favourite restaurants.

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

The provision is good.

Daily routines are relaxed and child-led, as children confidently make suggestions about activities they would like to do. They let the childminder know what they want to do next and she responds supportively to their plans. Children's relationships with the childminder are warm and trusting. Children are encouraged to use initiative and make decisions, so that activities are child-led. A clear and consistent approach to managing children's behaviour encourages children to behave well. They learn right from wrong in a warm and caring environment. For example, they are given clear explanations when they are asked to conform, or in the case of younger children distraction techniques are used.

Displays enhance the already attractive and thoroughly stimulating environment, and create a considerable sense of belonging for all children. These include attractively presented art work, photos of children, mobiles, colours, letters and numerals. Children are observed to be making

choices continually in their play because the childminder shows them what is available and ensures that the layout of resources fully promotes independent choice. Children are helped to feel good about themselves, as the childminder praises them and gives lots of warm encouragement. She plans activities so everyone can be involved. Children learn to share and cooperate as they play. They help to keep the play area tidy by putting toys away when they have finished with them. Children's awareness of their local community is raised well by regular outings. They go to the shops and visit local groups and parks. Outings further a field are planned in school holidays. The childminder has a good range of books and other resources which reflect different cultures and abilities. She plans activities to promote conversations with children about difference and diversity. Children explored activities relating to Chinese New Year making lanterns and a Chinese dragon.

The childminder works in close partnership with parents. She discusses children's individual needs with parents in a very professional manner to enable her to provide the best possible care for each child. The childminder talks with parents about her childcare practice and has a detailed information folder outlining her qualifications and childcare policies. Written agreements are reached with parents regarding all situations, so that the childminder clearly sets out expectations as to care of children. Information is shared very effectively on a daily basis.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder is enthusiastic and displays a commitment towards ongoing training to extend her childminding practise. This is helping her to plan enjoyable experiences for children and safeguard their welfare. Space and resources are well organised to meet the children's needs successfully.

All of the required childminding documentation is in excellent order, extremely well organised and kept with a high regard for confidentiality at all times. The childminder has a selection of written policies and procedures which contributes to the operation of her childminding practices. They are shared with parents to keep them informed about the service and how it contributes to the care of their children. The childminder clearly understands requirements with regard to reaching agreements with parents, so that their wishes are clearly respected. She shares information daily with parents about children's activities and care needs, enabling consistency and continuity of care. The registration certificate is displayed.

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 continue to develop toys and resources which reflect anti-discriminatory practice. There is now good provision for toys and activities which reflect diversity. Children access a broad range of resources which include books, small world equipment, jigsaws and dolls. All of which reflect positive images of diversity.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since April 2004, 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):

- further develop planning to enhance the play experiences of younger children under three years.

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)