

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312661
Inspection date	20 April 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder lives with her husband and son in a three bedroomed detached property located in a cul-de-sac on the outskirts of Middlesbrough. The lounge, dining room and study are used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden to the rear of the property for outdoor activities.

The childminder has been registered for 21 years and currently has eight children under eight years on roll and a total of 16 children on her register. Children attend for a variety of sessions.

The childminder takes and collects children from two local schools and makes use of local amenities including parks, farm and play areas. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates appropriate understanding of how to promote children's good health. She has systems to gather information about medical needs and dietary requirements. She describes opportunities for children to participate in physical activities, for example, outside play, walks to and from school and visits to parks and play areas.

The childminder demonstrates understanding of how to promote children's good hygiene practices, as they are encouraged to wipe their hands before meals and after using the toilet, however, opportunities for children to use soap and water are limited. The childminder has satisfactory procedures in place regarding sick children and administration of medication. Consent has been obtained from parents for the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment and accident and medication record systems are in place. Although, the most recent records of medication administered to children have not yet been signed by parents.

The childminder demonstrates an appropriate understanding of healthy eating, including the need for children to have regular drinks. She takes account of parents' wishes for their children and complies with any special dietary requirements to.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a homely environment where most risks are identified and minimised. This means children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. However, a glass cabinet in the playroom does present as a hazard. The childminder has sound systems in place to ensure children's safety inside and outside the home, for example, as she regularly practises emergency evacuation procedures and has clear procedures in place for the transporting of children in a car.

Furniture, equipment and toys which are of good quality and in a safe, well maintained condition are provided to promote children's development and welfare. Toys and resources 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. They are stored in a way that children can reach some of them easily and others with support. Children make choices and develop their independence.

Children are well protected. The childminder has a good understanding of her responsibilities with regards to child protection. All required procedures and documentation are in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy in the childminders care. Routines and care have been established which are consistent with home; this promotes children's sense of security and develops their confidence. Relationships between childminder and the children are good, for example, the childminder ensures children are comforted when they wake up from their sleep time. This means the children feel secure and happy in her care.

The childminder provides a wide range of activities which take into account children's individual needs. Children are involved in a range of activities and outings that promote their learning and development. The childminder has a secure understanding of the range of experiences required to enable children to develop. Activities and play opportunities are purposeful and developmentally appropriate resulting in children being motivated and interested

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides an appropriate range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of each child as an individual and uses this to plan and resource activities, which all children find enjoyable and interesting. However, the childminder does not fully support opportunities to promote children's independence, for example, with hand washing and with age appropriate cups for drinking.

Children are given clear boundaries for behaviour. This helps the children to understand the boundaries set and to behave well. The childminder helps them to negotiate and take responsibility for their own behaviour by supporting them and encouraging the children to help each other.

Trusting partnerships have been established with parents to help promote children's well-being, development and progress. 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 means children's individual needs are satisfactorily met.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home and at ease with the childminder and in the environment. The childminder organises her time appropriately to meet the needs of the children. Adult to child ratios are maintained and children receive some one to one attention.

All documentation required for the safe and efficient management of the provision is available and they are stored confidentially. Children's attendance is recorded each day, however, the record does not show when children are out at school or nursery. 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 develop the provision of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. An appropriate range of resources are now in place that satisfactorily promote children's awareness of diversity.

The childminder was also asked to improve documentation. Children's attendance is now recorded on a daily basis, however it is not an accurate record as it does not show when children are out at school or nursery. Parents are now asked to sign medication records, however, the most recent recordings have not yet been signed. This means children's welfare is not fully safeguarded.

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):

- ensure all medication records are signed by parents
- further develop daily attendance registers to show when children are out at school or nursery
- further develop opportunities to promote children's independence with hand washing and promote their individual needs particularly in relation to age appropriate cups for drinking
- ensure low-level glass panels are safe or inaccessible.

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