

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	312672
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 April 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 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 June 1995. She lives with her husband and two teenage children in the Linthorpe area of Middlesbrough. The whole of the ground floor and the upstairs landing is used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five and one child, before and after school.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean home which contributes to their good health. Children's awareness of good hygiene practices are raised by the childminder explaining the importance of personal hygiene by following good routines and by the childminder setting a good example. Children know to wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet, they talk about flushing the chain, so germs do not make them poorly. The childminder has clear

procedures in place regarding sick children, administering medication and recording accidents, thus preventing cross infection and ensuring children's health needs are fully met.

The childminder has a sound awareness of healthy eating. Children's individual likes and dislikes, special dietary requirements and parents' wishes are taken into account when providing meals and drinks to ensure children remain healthy. Children are offered fresh fruit and vegetables each day and drinks are easily accessible to children throughout the day.

Children enjoy a range of physical activities that contribute to their good health. There are daily opportunities for children to be outdoors. For example, they walk to school, play in the garden and visit a soft play area. Children are able to rest or be active according to their individual needs.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, safe and welcoming environment where risks of accidental injury to children have been identified and minimised. For example, a safety gate is fitted between the lounge and the dining room, household cleaning materials are stored on a high shelf in the garage and socket covers are used on all low level electric sockets. Children learn how to keep themselves safe both inside and outside the home as the childminder teaches them to tidy away toys so they do not trip over them and they stop look and listen for cars when they are crossing the road. The fire safety equipment is in place and tested on a regular basis and whilst the childminder talks to the children about leaving the home in the event of an emergency, an emergency evacuation procedure is not practised with the children.

A good range of safe, well maintained and good quality toys and resources are provided to promote children's development. A selection of toys are stored in the garage where children are able to access.

Children are effectively safeguarded because the childminder understands her role in child protection. She has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse and is aware of the procedures to be followed should she have a concern.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of child development resulting in children's personal, social, emotional and intellectual development being supported. Close and caring relationships have been developed between the childminder and the children, which increases the children's sense of trust and helps them to develop self esteem.

The childminder provides a good range of interesting activities both inside and outside the home, resulting in children being motivated and interested. Children are developing their creative skills as they paint pictures they have selected themselves from the internet and use their imagination whilst playing with play dough. They regularly visit the park to feed the ducks and have opportunities to develop their physical skills when attending soft play sessions. Children's self esteem is developing as a result of the childminder encouraging and praising them, for example, when completing the jigsaws for the first time.

Children's communication skills are developing well as a result of the childminder talking and listening to them. She becomes actively involved in their play, for example, helping complete jigsaw puzzles, encouraging them to repeat colours and shapes.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, resulting in all children feeling valued, for example, she has art work displayed from each child. Children have opportunities to take part in visits to the local park and other places within the local community. The childminder is beginning to increase children's awareness of diversity through stories and television programmes, however, resources and activities to support their understanding of diversity is limited.

Children respond well to the consistent boundaries that the childminder has in place and are beginning to understand what is expected of them, resulting in children feeling secure. The childminder uses positive strategies for managing behaviour and acts as a good role model, saying please and thank you to the children for helping to tidy up. As a result, children are well behaved and are kind to each other.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the childminder has established with their parents. She works with parents in order to meet children's individual needs. Daily verbal exchanges mean information is shared effectively ensuring parents are aware of their child's care throughout the day. The childminder keeps a diary of activities, visits undertaken and meals given to the children, this is shared with parents.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and relaxed in the well organised environment, resulting in them being confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Space is used well and children are able to move around freely and independently. The childminder has completed mandatory training and has recently been awarded with the Tees valley Food Hygiene Award.

There are effective systems in place for the sharing of information with parents contributing to the continuity in the children's care. Records are organised and stored securely to maintain confidentiality and all parental consents are in place. Whilst parents have details of the complaints procedure a complaints log has not been implemented.

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

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure additional activities and resources are provided to promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, obtain written permission from parents for transporting children in a vehicle and provide parents with the name, address and telephone number of Ofsted. Documentation has been revised and parental consent has been obtained for transporting children in a vehicle and all parents have the contact details for Ofsted.

Some resources are available which reflect diversity and raise children's awareness of difference. The childminder has identified this as an area she would like 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 complaint 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):

- practise an emergency evacuation procedure with the children
- update the complaints policy in line with current guidance
- continue to develop activities to support children's understanding of diversity.

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)