

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312692
Inspection date	11 April 2007
Inspector	Pauline Pinnegar

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 has been registered since 1992. She lives with her partner and adult daughter in a house in the Linthorpe area of Middlesbrough. Minded children have access to the whole of the ground floor apart from the front room, and the bathroom on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. There are local schools and other childcare groups in the area where the childminder lives. She takes and collects children to and from her local school and playgroup.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years. There are currently seven children on roll aged including four children over eight years old. Children are cared for on both a full time and part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder understands the importance of good hygiene practices and parents are made aware that sick children cannot be cared for. Children learn about good hygiene in everyday

routines, for example, they are encouraged to wash their hands before meals and snacks. The childminder talks daily with parents, so she is aware of their wishes for their child's care. Required documentation is in place for the recording of accidents and medication. However, the childminder does not have written parental consent in place for all children regarding the seeking of emergency treatment or advice and a well stocked first aid box is not in place. This compromises children's welfare in the event of an accident.

Arrangements for snacks, meals and drinks are negotiated carefully with parents to ensure that children's individual dietary needs are met. A varied range of nutritious, freshly cooked meals is provided. Snacks are healthy and the childminder introduces the children to a range of different fruits and vegetables. She often visits the local supermarket with the children, whilst out walking, to allow them to choose healthy snacks. Children also help to prepare meals with the childminder making vegetable soup. The childminder offers drinks regularly and children can help themselves to drinks when they are thirsty. Children sit together at the kitchen table, so that mealtimes are relaxed and sociable.

Daily opportunities are made for the children to get fresh air and to promote and enjoy their physical development. They walk to and from groups and school. The childminder organises outings in the local area including trips to the local park and soft play facilities. If the weather is suitable activities are moved outside so that children can play in the fresh air. Equipment, such as a slide, see-saw, bats and balls are readily available to help children develop their physical skills. Children also enjoy picnics outdoors when the weather permits.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming, child-friendly setting. The childminder uses suitable safety equipment, such as a fireguard, socket covers and smoke detectors, which contribute towards keeping children safe. She has identified a clear evacuation route and practises regular fire drills with children, to raise their awareness of what to do in an emergency. Children learn strategies for keeping themselves safe. For example, they are encouraged to apply suitable road safety drills and they are learning safety indoors, such as not running and putting toys away after use. Toys and resources are stored accessibly, in the designated play room. The childminder ensures toys and equipment meet relevant safety standards and are suitable for children's recommended age ranges. Children enjoy exploring their environment and are developing confidence and independence through being able to move around freely and make personal choices. The childminder monitors children very closely as they move around, to ensure their safety and well-being.

The childminder has increased her awareness of child protection issues by attending appropriate training. She gives priority to keeping children safe and implements required child protection procedures appropriately. She understands her responsibility to protect children. She is well informed regarding contact details for support agencies, should concerns arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy many interesting activities using a wide range of stimulating resources, which support and challenge their development. These are age appropriate and provide good levels of challenge. Close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust and helps them to develop a strong sense of self. Children develop confidence as the childminder talks to them

and shows interest in what they are doing. She observes children's play carefully, finding out what they enjoy and can do, so that she plans experiences to develop new skills and extend their learning. Children develop a high level of confidence and self-esteem due to the very good relationship they have with the childminder. She is responsive, warm and affectionate with them. The childminder talks to the children with enthusiasm and they respond positively with lots of conversation. Children receive frequent praise and encouragement, which makes them feel good about themselves. Children begin to understand right and wrong and good behaviour is sensitively supported by the childminder.

Children spend their time purposefully and very confidently make good use of all areas, and are keen to engage in purposeful fun activities. They become engrossed in activities that engage them, like playing a guessing game. They patiently wait their turn and younger children are beginning to cooperate and take turns. Their imagination is fostered as they develop their own ideas with small world play, as they dress up and pretend to be characters from their favourite cartoon television programmes. Children benefit from regular outings and excursions, enjoying features of the local community; such as, the park, trips to the shops, soft play facilities, the library and cafés. All these activities help to promote both children's enjoyment and social development. Children enjoy creative activities, such as drawing, painting and playing with dough. They recently made cards and decorated eggs as they celebrated Easter.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a high regard for the children in her care who demonstrate a sense of belonging by the confidence with which they relate to her. Children are 'at home' in the child-orientated environment. They behave generally well and share and take turns. Children are learning right from wrong and are starting to take responsibility for their own actions with appropriate support. Children receive lots of praise and encouragement from the childminder which promotes positive behaviour. She recognises the need to use different behaviour management strategies depending on the individual child and taking into account their age and level of understanding.

Children are treated with equal concern and the childminder encourages non-stereotypical play. Children's awareness of diversity is satisfactory and they have access to a selection of resources that promote a positive view of the wider world. Children learn about their community as they visit the park, library and groups. They make their own decisions as they decide what they will play with; they confidently choose activities and get out resources to support their play. The childminder is aware of the issues involved with children with learning difficulties or disabilities in order to provide appropriate support to enable them to participate fully in the activities

The childminder works very successfully with parents to meet children's individual needs. For example, routines for young children are consistent with their home life. Relevant information is shared very well and communication is good. Parents receive daily verbal feedback about their child, this ensures that the children's ongoing needs are met and the continuity of care. The parents are very complimentary about the provision for their children and the progress their children have made since entering the childminder's care. Although there is a complaints procedure in place for parents it has not been updated in line with changes to regulations.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The home environment is organised well to provide child-friendly play space. Children are able to move around freely and gain independence within daily routines. This results in children remaining settled and feeling secure in their surroundings. Children's health and welfare are promoted by flexible planning, which supports their individual needs. Adult to child ratios are maintained to ensure children's safety.

Children are well protected and cared for because the childminder is suitably vetted and experienced. She has partly completed the mandatory first aid training but is not in line to fully meet the guidance issued by the secretary of state. Most of the required documentation is in place. However, the registration certificate is not displayed prominently to inform parents. There are effective systems in place for the sharing of information with parents about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. Agreements reached with parents influence her day to day practice so that parents' wishes are respected and children's needs are met.

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; extend the range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice; ensure the record of children's attendance is accurate; ensure parental consent is obtained in written form.

Children access a range of suitable resources which reflect positive images of diversity and the childminder acts as a good role model to children. The record of children's attendance is now accurate and kept up to date and most parental consent forms are in place. This contributes to children's overall safety and welfare.

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 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 written parental consent is in place for all children for the seeking of any emergency treatment or advice
- ensure there is a well stocked first aid box in place
- develop a complaints procedure for parents in line with changes to regulations
- complete first aid training which is in line with guidance given by the secretary of state
- clearly display the registration certificate.

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