

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312710
Inspection date	08 May 2007
Inspector	Elaine Marie McDonnell
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 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 August 1994. She lives with her husband and their two children, who are aged 17 and 20 years old, in the Normanby area of Middlesbrough.

Minded children have the use of most of the ground floor of the home, with the exception of the dining room, and a bedroom and bathroom on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for up to six children under eight years at any one time. There are currently seven children on roll aged from two to six years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows appropriate health and hygiene procedures. For example, the premises and equipment are kept clean. Children are encouraged to learn about personal hygiene through the daily routine, such as regular hand washing before

eating and after visiting the bathroom. Appropriate procedures are in place to protect children's overall health, for example, the exclusion of children with certain illnesses. Accident and medication records are in place and are well completed and include parents' signatures.

Children are well nourished. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how to provide a healthy, balanced diet for children and they receive a range of healthy meals and snacks, and regular drinks. The childminder finds out about children's individual dietary requirements or family preferences through discussions with parents and details are recorded on each child's information sheet.

Children have regular opportunities to enjoy physical activity. For example, they enjoy playing physical games in the lounge with a pop-up tent. They also play in the garden, walk to school and visit a local play park on a regular basis. Young children sleep according to their needs and individual routines and older children have opportunities for restful activities when returning from school, such as watching a television programme.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Good steps have been taken to ensure that children are cared for in a safe environment. For example, the premises are kept secure, a suitable first aid box, fire blanket and smoke alarms are available plus a fire guard in the lounge and a safety gate at the bottom of the stairs. However, the piece of carpet in the hall poses a tripping hazard to children in its current condition. A detailed emergency escape plan is in place and includes evacuation from the playroom, the breakfast room and the first floor. Good steps are taken to ensure that children are kept safe when playing outdoors and when on outings. For example, the rear garden is fully enclosed and is kept secure and free from obvious hazards.

The environment is warm and welcoming for the children with a good range of toys available in a designated playroom. Examples of children's artwork are displayed. Children have suitable access to a good range of toys, equipment and furniture and the childminder ensures that resources are safe and suitable for use with regular cleaning and checking routines.

Children are well protected; the childminder understands her role in relation to child protection issues and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary. She demonstrates a good understanding of the different areas of abuse and of possible signs. Appropriate, useful information in relation to child protection issues is readily available.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are involved in a good range of activities and outings that cover all areas of development. For example, they are observed involved in role play with a wide range of resources, such as play food, play kitchen and cooking utensils. They also enjoy physical play when climbing in and out of a pop-up tent. Children also visit local social groups on a regular basis. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of 'Birth to three matters' and the framework is effectively implemented.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem well when being praised and encouraged for their efforts, for example, when joining in with others and playing cooperatively. They show a lot of interest in what they do and enjoy the activities and resources available. Children respond to

challenge and concentrate well when involved in imaginative play. They have opportunities to be independent and use their initiative, such as when making choices and decisions about what toys they want to play with. Children acquire new skills and knowledge during play, for example, they count objects and name the colour of different items. They are also encouraged to play together and a self-registration board is in place.

Children have appropriate opportunities to learn about wider society and begin to appreciate their own culture and the cultural traditions of others. For example, through the use of resources, such as dressing up clothes, books, dolls and cooking utensils. Children learn about their own cultural background when making Easter and Christmas cards and when involved in role play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Equal opportunities are well promoted as all children are included and involved. The childminder tries hard to encourage all children to play cooperatively and participate. She has a positive attitude towards caring for children with learning difficulties, disabilities or who speak English as an additional language and has had experience of caring for children with additional needs in the past.

Children thoroughly enjoy being with the childminder and enjoy the activities available. They are settled and happy and make positive relationships with adults and peers. Children are well behaved. The childminder demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of how to manage behaviour and encourage a positive environment. Children are beginning to understand and respect the values and feelings of others, for example, the childminder explains that they can only close up the fastenings on the tent if all the children are happy about this.

The childminder works well in partnership with parents and carers. Parents are kept informed of their child's development and progress through regular discussions. Appropriate consent forms from parents are available and contract agreements are in place.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder ensures that adults caring for children are suitable to do so as all persons in the household over 16 years have either been appropriately vetted, or are in the process of this. The childminder has undertaken some additional training since the last inspection, for example, 'changes to Ofsted' and 'emergency aid for babies and children'.

Attendance records are kept up to date and are accurate and observation and records indicate that adult to child ratios are effectively maintained. The childminder has high regard for the well-being of all children and they receive good adult support and attention.

All documents and records required for the safe and efficient management of the provision are available, well kept and up to date. There are also some good practice documents available, such as a procedure to be followed in the event of a child being lost or uncollected. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that a certificate is available of attendance at appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children. Children's safety is promoted as this is now available, the childminder completed an appropriate first aid course in January 2006.

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 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):

- ensure that the rug in the hall does not pose a tripping hazard.

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