

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	401589
<b>Inspection date</b>	30 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Jim Bostock
<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 for a number of years. She childminds from her home in Rothbury, Northumberland. She lives with her husband and three children aged 14, 12 and eight years of age. Areas used for minding purposes include a lounge, kitchen /living room, downstairs bathroom and bedroom. A large enclosed garden is available for outdoor play. At the time of inspection, there were seven children on the register, five of whom were under eight years of age.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is well promoted as there are good routines to ensure the environment is clean and good hygienic procedures, such as nappy changing, in place. Children learn why they wash their hands before eating or after using the toilet to develop their knowledge and independence. They have clean towels and liquid soap dispensers to reduce the risk of cross infection. Accidents and medicine administered are recorded appropriately and shared with parents. The childminder has a current first aid certificate which further protects children.

Children receive a balanced and healthy diet, including the provision of fruit, snacks and drinks each day, and the childminder presents as having a good understanding of the nutritional needs of children. Children's individual dietary needs are recorded and respected in the meals and snacks provided. Children are helped to learn about healthy eating and benefit from the good communication between childminder and parents. They have easy access to drinking water within the playrooms.

Children's physical development is very well promoted through regular use of the outdoor area where they have large play equipment and outdoor activities, such as making tents and tunnels to crawl through, see-saw, push and ride toys and a small trampoline. Children have regular outings, walks and visits to interesting places. They walk to the village, a local farm, feed the ducks by the river, attend toddler groups and soft play.

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

The provision is good.

Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because the childminder is extremely vigilant and takes very good precautions to reduce potential hazards. She has a good understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits and how to help children develop an understanding of keeping themselves safe. For example, she talks with children about not running or jumping in the house as they may fall and hurt themselves. There are fire safety procedures but children have not practised them, therefore, they do not have a clear idea of what to do in the event of a fire. Children learn about road safety very well. The childminder ensures that children are well supervised to prevent accidents and keep them safe. Children use a good range of high quality toys and equipment that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Regular communication with parents contributes to children's safety.

Children are very well protected from possible abuse or neglect. The childminder has attended training in child protection and is fully aware of the types of abuse and the signs to look for. She has a good understanding of the procedures to follow if there are any concerns and gives high priority to children's welfare.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and achieve well because she is skilled and has a good understanding of the age and stage of development of the children who attend. They are helped to settle well because the childminder is sensitive and responsive towards their individual needs. The childminder gives children very good support to help them make good progress. Close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust and helps them to develop a strong sense of self. Children receive hugs and cuddles as they sit on the childminder's knee as she talks gently and affectionately with them.

Early communication skills are extremely well supported through high quality adult-child interactions. Children begin to make sense of the world and express their ideas as they join in with a diverse range of interesting activities and experiences. For example, the childminder links play to events in their family's life and uses very good open questions to help children explore and discuss events. Children are interested in their play and concentrate very well. They enjoy playing with diggers, building blocks, counting, reading books, using puzzles and playing games. Their progress is very well supported by regular discussions with parents.

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

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed and play a full part in the setting because the childminder values and respects their individuality and the family context for each child. The childminder is aware of meeting the needs of children with learning difficulties or disabilities and enabling their full participation in the activities. She provides a range of toys and activities which reflect positive images of diversity to help children develop an awareness and a positive attitude towards difference.

An excellent partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well-being. Parent's views about their child's needs are actively sought before the child starts at the setting and on a regular basis throughout their time there. The childminder ensures that parents know how their child is progressing and developing. Children benefit greatly from the involvement of their parents in the care and activities which contribute to their good health, development and learning.

Children's behaviour is excellent. The childminder helps children learn to share and take turns. They learn about manners and being polite to help them relate to others and get on well with each other. For example, a three-year-old child held the door open for the childminder to enter without being asked. They also have regular discussions about how their behaviour affects others. The childminder uses her very good knowledge and understanding of children's behaviour to support their progress and uses praise and encouragement very well to help them develop self-confidence, independence and a sense of responsibility.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder provides clear routines and organised activities which give children confidence in the setting. She is very committed to developing her knowledge and understanding of child care by attending regular training. The childminder is very experienced which ensures children are well cared for. The well planned daily routine and well resourced service allows children to experience a wide variety of stimulating and interesting activities.

The documentation kept enhances the care provided by being both relevant and well organised. The childminder keeps very good records which are securely stored to ensure confidentiality. She has written information about each child so that the care of children is well based. There are written contracts and consents in place so that children are cared for in accordance with parent's wishes. All the information is easily accessible to parents. The childminder has a good policy and procedure file, however, the complaint policy is not up-to-date. The childminder has current public liability insurance cover and a current first aid certificate so that children are well protected. She displays her certificate on the wall as is required. Appropriate checks are in place for all adults living in the home to ensure they are suitable to be in contact with children.

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 knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures and of equal opportunity issues. She has done this by attending training and further reading on the topics. She has a good understanding of the signs and

symptoms of child abuse and provides activities and toys that promote children's understanding of difference and diversity.

### **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):

- practise the emergency evacuation procedure with children.
- develop the complaints policy in line with the latest guidance from Ofsted.

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)