

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY320052
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 June 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Janet Fairhurst
<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 2006. She lives with her husband and their two children aged 17 and eight years in Blackhill a residential area of Consett. There are shops, parks and other local amenities close by. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes. There is an enclosed front garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently caring for three children on a part-time basis. The childminder takes children to and collects them from the local school and nurseries.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to learn the importance of good personal hygiene through informal daily routines, for example, they are encouraged to wash their hands and brush their teeth and the childminder provides the children with simple explanations as to why. The childminder has good procedures in place, such as washing surfaces before meals, use of liquid soap for children

and regular cleaning routines to ensure that play materials are kept clean. As a result of this the risk of cross-contamination is minimised. Children sleep or rest according to their individual needs. Children's health is further supported by the very clear policies and procedures which the childminder follows to protect them from illness and to deal with any accidents. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate which ensures the treatment of injuries is carried out appropriately.

Children enjoy lots of exercise which contributes to their physical health. Good access to the local parks and the excellent use of the garden means that children are able to participate in outdoor activities on a daily basis. Children learn to practise and develop their physical skills and control over their bodies as they climb, balance and participate in 'rhyme time' dance and singing sessions. A varied range of outdoor equipment encourages children to play together and learn to appreciate the fun and freedom of being outdoors from an early age. The childminder's positive attitude to being outdoors contributes to children's confidence and enthusiasm to take part in such activities.

Children enjoy wholesome, nutritious snacks, such as fresh fruit. Children are not served food and drinks with high levels of artificial additives and sugar. Good arrangements are in place which ensure that meals provided by parents are appropriately stored and prepared. Regular drinks are offered throughout the day to ensure children never become thirsty. Mealtimes are a relaxed social occasion for the children to enjoy. The childminder keeps parents informed verbally of what their children have eaten throughout the day.

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

The provision is good.

Risk of accidental injury to children is minimised by the very good supervision of the childminder. Positive steps are also taken to ensure the surroundings are very safe and secure. Examples of these include the emergency evacuation plans the childminder has devised which are practised with the children on a regular basis. The childminder regularly reviews safety arrangements, taking into account children's age and stage of development. Space and equipment are organised effectively so children move around freely and explore with confidence.

Children use a wide range of safe and very well-maintained toys which are suitable to meet their developing needs and stimulate their interests. They are well-organised to encourage children's independent access so they can make decisions about their play and learning. The childminder monitors and supervises children's choice of toys carefully to make sure that they are safe and appropriate for their ages and stage of development. The children have good opportunities to develop their senses through the stimulating range of activities and natural resources available to them. For example, the children participate in a variety of creative activities, such as pasta and water play.

Children respond well to the childminder's sensitive approach to understanding safety. This extends to outings and trips out when children are learning how to cross the road and to stay with the childminder. Visual risk assessments and close physical proximity maintains children's safety when they are outdoors in public areas. The childminder ensures that fire precautions, such as smoke alarms and a fire blanket, are in place to ensure children do not come to harm. Young children can move freely and are protected from harm within the home as the space is very well organised, creating a very safe and child-friendly environment.

Children are well protected by the childminder who is confident and secure in her knowledge of child protection policies and procedures. However, the childminder has not yet obtained the 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused', summary booklet. The policy is discussed with parents so that they are aware of what her responsibilities are regarding the welfare of children.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a very good understanding of children's developmental needs and she participates fully during activities, encouraging children to join in. Children have good opportunities to develop a range of skills and progress well in all areas in a stimulating and interesting environment. Children's interest and enjoyment is sustained well as they are encouraged to make their own choices regarding their activities. They are able to work things out for themselves and the childminder knows when to allow play to develop and when to step in to assist them. They use their imagination well, supported by the very good range of resources. For example, they use the role play resources to re-enact familiar characters from the television, such as Big Chef Little Chef and the Little Mermaid.

The children benefit from familiar routines which help them feel secure. They are very happy and enjoy their time with the childminder and the varied activities. Children's confidence and independence skills are developing well as they make choices about activities and the materials they use. Children experience a wide range of activities which promote their development and learning, both within the home and the community. For example, after visiting the library the children were keen to create their own library; sorting out the books and making tickets for them. This approach to first hand experiences for children allows them to express their own ideas and learn through their play.

Children form warm and trusting relationships with the childminder and develop a strong sense of belonging. The nurturing environment and the childminder's sensitive, caring nature helps children feel totally secure in her care. Children benefit greatly from routines which are consistent with their experiences at home; through this approach the childminder helps young children to move between home and the new setting and in turn meets their emotional needs.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They are becoming independent as they are encouraged and supported very well to make their own decisions and develop preferences, for example, as they choose what activity to do or when to have their snack. Children's individual needs are very well addressed as the childminder is well informed about each child and consequently able to provide them with appropriate care and activities.

Children behave well because they know exactly what is expected of them. The childminder manages behaviour calmly and effectively, ensuring clear rules and boundaries are in place. The childminder makes very good use of praise and encouragement to help children develop their self-confidence and self-esteem. The childminder ensures that children understand the need to share and how being kind to each other prevents children from being hurt. Children are kind and caring to each other spontaneously.

Parents are provided with good written information relating to the provision, which is well presented and detailed. They are encouraged to share information about their child which helps the childminder to meet the children's individual needs successfully. Time is taken prior to admission to ensure that each child's needs, interests and abilities are identified. Positive and complimentary feedback from parents demonstrates their absolute satisfaction with the service that is provided.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder complies with the conditions of her registration and gives high regard to the National Standards so children are well cared for. Records and documentation are well-organised to maintain a safe and efficient service to contribute to children's health, safety and well-being. Comprehensive policies are used effectively to ensure there are positive outcomes for children. An appropriate complaints procedure is in place.

Children's care is greatly enhanced by the childminder's very effective organisation. Indoor and outdoor space is very well laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. Children feel at home in this child centred setting and benefit greatly from an excellent amount of individual support which fosters their confidence and learning. The sharing of fun experiences with the childminder ensures they enjoy a thoroughly good time.

The childminder has a very strong commitment to the continuous development of her childminding practice to provide a high quality service. She keeps abreast of current issues in childcare by accessing training which ensures she is very well informed and up to date with new developments. She uses her knowledge effectively to provide children with a wide range of learning experiences. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

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.

Since registration, 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 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):

- obtain a copy of the 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' booklet.

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)