

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY343700
Inspection date	27 April 2007
Inspector	Vivienne Dempsey

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 was registered in November 2006. She lives with her husband in a house in Hart village near Hartlepool. The downstairs only of the home is used for childminding. The yard is used for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years with three under five years at any one time. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools and she attends local childminder groups. There are three children on roll.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how to promote healthy eating to ensure children are well nourished. Fresh fruit and drinks are freely available to them. She has a good understanding of how to meet children's individual likes, dislikes and individual dietary requirements by working closely with parents to ensure individual needs are met and children remain healthy. The childminder understands the importance of good hygiene routines and clear, efficient hygiene routines are sometimes followed to protect and promote children's health. For example, children have their own towel to dry their hands, children's cups are

regularly sterilised and good nappy changing procedures are in place. Children are encouraged to follow some good personal hygiene routines as they wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. However, they do not always wash their hands before eating their snack. This means good hygiene practices are not always promoted.

Appropriate medication and accident procedures are in place and the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and consent has been gained from parents for seeking any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment. However, a sick children's policy or procedure is not in place. This means, the spread of infection is not always minimised.

The childminder has a good understanding of the importance of providing physical activities to promote children's all round health, such as walks in the local park, visits to the local soft play area and playing in the outside yard area. A sufficient range of resources are available to support children's physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is safe and child friendly and she places a high priority on keeping children safe. She ensures the premises are made welcoming, friendly and in a good state of decoration. Procedures are in place for ensuring the risk of accidental injury to children is minimised. For example, all safety requirements are in place, such as a stair gate and socket covers. Children are able to move around the home safely and independently. The childminder practises an emergency evacuation procedure at regular intervals to ensure children know how to keep safe in the event of a fire.

Children independently select activities from a good range of safe, well maintained, good quality toys and resources which meet safety standards. They are regularly checked by the childminder and are well organised to encourage independent access.

Children's safety is promoted and safeguarded through the childminder's written child protection policy which is shared with parents. She has a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows what to do if she has concerns about a child. All relevant documentation is easily accessible ensuring children are well protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled in the childminder's care due to her caring and welcoming approach. They enjoy the close contact with the childminder and respond well to her encouragement. Children feel secure as a result of the childminder's praise and support. The childminder listens to and values what the children have to say, which develops their self-esteem and confidence. Their independence is developed because they are able to choose between a variety of toys, books and activities, which are easily accessible.

Children enjoy using a wide range of resources, such as puzzles, small world animals, books and blocks, which are suitable for their age and stage of development. They make decisions about their play and learning, appropriately supported by the childminder. Activities and play opportunities are purposeful and developmentally appropriate, resulting in children being motivated and interested. The childminder and children regularly attend local childminding groups, which develops the children's social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and treated as individuals. The childminder has a written equal opportunities policy and behaviour management policy in place and parents sign to say they agree with them. She promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, which results in all children feeling valued and welcome at the provision. Some resources are provided to increase children's awareness of diversity, however, these are very limited and do not fully promote their awareness of the wider community.

Children behave well because of the childminder's consistent and positive approach. Her good use of praise and encouragement helps build children's self-esteem. Positive and friendly relationships with parents have been achieved because the childminder has written agreements with parents, formalising arrangements and expectations and ensuring that children are looked after in accordance with parents' wishes. Parents have opportunities to exchange information about their child on a daily basis, ensuring continuity of care. For example, the childminder provides parents with a daily diary of their child's day.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease in the well-organised environment. This means they are confident and can initiate their own learning. Space is organised to maximise play opportunities for children and the childminder organises her time well to meet the needs of the children cared for.

Most policies and procedures are in place and used effectively to promote the care and learning of the children. They are shared with parents to keep them well informed about the service provided, their child's progress and achievements. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. Most documentation, which contributes to children's safety and well-being is in place and stored securely and all parental consents are in place.

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):

- further develop good hygiene practices by encouraging children to wash their hands before snack and ensure a sick children's policy and procedure is in place
- further develop resources to increase children's awareness of diversity and the wider community.

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