

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312474
Inspection date	11 July 2007
Inspector	Cilla Burdis
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 1992. She lives with her husband and three grown up children in Hebburn, South Tyneside. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed yard for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five and one child before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends a local parent and toddler group. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

There are no family pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is effectively promoted because the childminder employs good hygiene procedures. All equipment and resources are kept very clean. Consistent adult support and guidance helps children gain a good understanding of hygiene. The children become independent

in their personal care and learn that they must wash their hands to get rid of germs. They know that food must not be eaten if it has fallen on the floor. Children have their own hand towels and clean their teeth after meals. The childminder informs parents of her sickness policy in order to protect children from illness and infection. Arrangements are in place to meet children's needs in the event of illness or injury. This helps to ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of a child becoming ill or sustaining an injury. The effective recording of emergency contacts and medication permission helps to promote children's well-being. The recording of medication that has been administered, however, does not contain sufficient detail to ensure children are fully protected.

Children have daily opportunities for fresh air and exercise. They walk to and from school on most days and play in the childminder's rear yard in fine weather. The children have opportunities to climb, slide, run around and play ball games in the yard. The children particularly enjoy playing with hoops and skipping ropes. Indoors, children take part in dancing and exercise sessions. The children also access a wide range of equipment when they visit the toddler group and the local park. This helps children to develop a positive attitude towards exercise as they do it in a fun and exciting way. Children are able to rest or sleep in accordance with their individual needs.

Children's individual dietary needs are met in partnership with parents. The childminder promotes healthy eating and provides a range of fruits at snack time. The childminder and children take regular trips to the supermarket to buy fresh fruit and yogurts. The children are included in making decisions about choosing the most healthy options. Parents provide their child's meals and the childminder supports them by ensuring the snacks she offers are healthy and nutritious. Children have access to drinks throughout the day to ensure they can quench their thirst easily.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe and secure. The childminder emphasises the need to ensure children are safeguarded. She has identified and effectively minimised risks to children's safety in her home. Children are encouraged to develop their awareness of how they can help keep themselves safe. For example, they enjoy reading a book that shows the risks adults take when caring for children, such as leaving the floor cluttered or holding hot drinks with children on their knees. Regular fire drills help children to become familiar with the action they must take in the event of an emergency. When on outings the children learn about stranger danger, road safety and not approaching stray dogs.

The premises is very well organised so the children have space to play freely and safely. The children have easy access to a broad range of toys and activities, which enables choice and independence. The childminder ensures the toys are age appropriate and provide good levels of stimulation for the children. All resources are checked regularly so that their safety is maintained.

Children are very well protected by the childminder who is secure in her knowledge of child protection policies and procedures. The childminder maintains a current first aid certificate. Consequently, children are well protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's sensitive and caring approach. She gets to know the children well having cared for some children since they were babies. This contributes to their continuity of care. Children benefit from the childminder responding positively to them and showing interest in what they say and do. They receive comfort, support and attention, which helps to develop their self-esteem and confidence. Children show pride in their achievements, which are acknowledged affectionately by the childminder.

The childminder follows a flexible routine, which is adapted in accordance with the children's needs and also fits around the school day. This helps to develop children's sense of belonging and security. She monitors children's progress as she knows the children very well. Children enjoy a very good range of activities to support their development, such as music, dance, role play, reading books together and jig-saw puzzles. Children's experiences are broadened by the regular outings to local facilities, such as toddler group, visiting friends and walks in the local park. The children's interest in nature is stimulated as the childminder talks to them about the trees, flowers and wildlife. Children learn about the seasons and discuss the changes with the childminder. They enjoy playing in the snow and discussing the different sizes of foot prints they have made. The childminder uses opportunities such as this to encourage the children to think about mathematical concepts, such as 'big' and 'bigger'. Children also learn about their bodies by discussing how they feel cold and that they need to wear warm clothing.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are highly valued and respected as individuals. They are encouraged to participate in a full range of activities. They are developing good levels of independence as they are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and make choices about their activities. The childminder is well informed about individual children's care needs and consequently she is able to provide appropriate care and support. Children learn about the wider world through access to resources reflecting positive images of diversity. Children learn about cultural festivals, when they participate in creative activities to raise their awareness.

Children behave very well. They know and follow the ground rules that are in place. They learn to share and show care and concern for others with positive reinforcement from the childminder. The good use of praise and encouragement builds children's confidence and self-esteem.

Relationships with parents are promoted and developed well. Parents are made very welcome and the childminder ensures their wishes are respected in the care of their child. They discuss all issues relating to the care of the children and work together to encourage children's development. The childminder has a wealth of experience which she is able to share with parents and she has a sound awareness of how to support children's needs appropriately and effectively. Parents comment positively about the very caring and flexible approach the childminder takes and her very well organised routine.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well cared for and feel at home, in a well organised environment that keeps them safe and secure. Toys and resources are organised effectively, enabling all children to access

them independently. This allows children to self-select and make free choices about their play and learning. Documentation is well organised, with children's individual files in place. Most documentation is well maintained and shared with parents. The childminder's registration certificate is prominently displayed in the hall. All adults living in the house have undergone the relevant checks to ensure their suitability to be in close proximity to children.

Children benefit from the childminder's links with other childminders and enjoy socialising with other children. The childminder holds a recognised childminding qualification and continues to update her knowledge of child care issues. This has a positive impact on the quality of care children receive.

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 it was recommended that the childminder ensures that a current first aid certificate is maintained at all times and to make sure children cannot lock themselves in the bathroom. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and clearly understands her responsibility in ensuring this is maintained to promote children's health and welfare. The bathroom lock has been removed in order to ensure children's safety.

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):

- make sure the recording of medication clearly shows the details of administration

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