

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	401451
Inspection date	19 September 2007
Inspector	Josephine Ann Northend
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder runs her childminding business from the family home which she shares with her husband and three grown up children. They live in a detached house in Stokesley near Middlesbrough. The ground floor of the property is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder has been registered since April 2001 to care for six children under eight. There are currently 12 children on the childminder's register. Nine of these are under eight years. The children attend varying days and some attend before or after school.

Stokesley County Primary and Nursery School and the local playgroup are within easy walking distance. Children are collected and dropped off. Minded children are not usually transported by car but could be in an emergency. The family have one pet dog that minded children have supervised access to.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy physical activities that contribute to their good health. They receive fresh air and exercise each day as they walk to and from school and take part in outdoor activities in the childminder's enclosed garden. They have opportunities to use a range of outdoor toys, including slide, cars, balls and skipping ropes. This encourages their physical development. Children are able to rest and be active according to their individual needs.

Effective procedures followed by the childminder results in children being protected from illness and the spread of infection. Children's health is supported by the encouragement of appropriate personal care routines which also allow them to develop their independence, for example, with washing their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Accident recording procedures are in place, however, the childminder only records the more serious accidents. This means not all accidents are recorded. Consent has been obtained for the childminder to administer medication, however, she has not needed to do this, but a system to record when medicines have been administered to children is not in place. This does not fully promote children's welfare.

Regular drinks are offered to the children who also benefit from being offered varied and healthy snacks. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure food and drinks meet children's dietary needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming, child orientated environment where most risks are identified and minimised. The childminder gives priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe on outings, for example, as she promotes road safety when walking to and from school each day. However, the childminder has not practised emergency escape procedures. This means children are not fully safeguarded in the event of an emergency.

A good range of appropriate equipment and toys are provided. Toys are available for all ages, and in sufficient quantities to ensure children enjoy a wide range of activities to promote all areas of their development. A suitable range is set out by the childminder for younger children and others are stored so that older children can reach them easily, make choices and develop their independence.

Children are protected by the childminder who has a clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures and holds a current first aid certificate.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have good relationships with the childminder and are well settled and happy in her care. They learn to be increasingly independent as a result of the consistent praise and encouragement given to them, for example, as babies crawl across the room. Communication skills are well supported through good adult to child interactions, for example, the childminder shows interest in what children have to say, this contributes to their sense of belonging.

Children are involved in a wide range of activities that promote learning in all areas of their development. The childminder provides a good range of interesting activities, which take into account children's individual interests. They experience a varied range of activities, which contribute to their development, inside and outside the home. The childminder makes use of the local amenities, to further enhance children's experiences, for example, as she takes the children to feed ducks.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice well. All children are welcomed into the setting and participate fully in all activities because the childminder values and respects their individuality. This means children feel valued and free from discrimination. They access a satisfactory range of resources which increases their awareness of diversity. The childminder has a positive attitude towards caring for all children including those with physical disabilities or learning difficulties.

Children behave well. The childminder effectively supports younger children and all children are encouraged to share and take turns. They are encouraged to negotiate and take responsibility for their own behaviour as she supports them and offers a positive role model.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the childminder has developed with their parents. Parents are kept fully informed of how their child has been, this enables the childminder to meet each child's needs appropriately.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are settled with the childminder and in the environment. This means that they are happy in their play. Space is used well to cater for the children's play needs. They are able to move around confidently. Adult to child ratios are maintained with good organisation of time to allow children one to one attention and meet individual needs.

The childminder has a positive attitude to training and has an appropriate first aid certificate. Required records are in place, however, they are not all maintained well, for example, the register of children's attendance does not consistently show their times of attendance. 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 obtain copies of the recommended child protection guidance and associated contact numbers and keep them on file for reference. The recommended guidance and contact numbers are now readily available to be used in the event of a child protection concern. This means children's welfare is safeguarded.

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 satisfactory. 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 the accident record to include minor accidents and parents signature
- practice the emergency escape procedures in place
- devise a system for recording medication administered to children
- improve registration systems to consistently show times of children's attendance.

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