

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	403166
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 May 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Anthea Errington

<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 satisfactory. 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 several years and is registered to care for a maximum of six children. There are currently four children on roll. She minds from her home in Ellington, Northumberland which she shares with her husband and their two children.

Areas of the house used for childminding purposes include the lounge, dining area, kitchen, conservatory and upstairs bathroom. An enclosed rear garden is available for outdoor play.

The family pets include a small dog and budgies.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and warm environment where the childminder places sufficient importance on good hygiene as she regularly washes toys and equipment to ensure they are suitable. Parents are informed verbally of her policy of not caring for sick children, which further protects the children from the spread of illness and infection. Children are aware they should

wash hands after visiting the bathroom and before snacks and meals. However, this is not always practiced as the children did not wash their hands prior to their snack. This compromises children's understanding of how to keep themselves healthy. Children benefit from a routine that provides satisfactory opportunities for active play and comfortable areas are available for rest if required.

A variety of outdoor activities, such as local walks to and from school and visits to the surrounding countryside and beach, further contributes to children's good health. The provision of outdoor equipment and physical activities help them to learn control of their bodies.

Children enjoy healthy snacks and meals provided by their parents which are appropriately stored. Dietary requirements, including allergies, are fully discussed with parents which ensures children's needs are adequately met.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a light, spacious environment where sufficient play space is available, providing them with good free play opportunities. The premises are kept secure whilst minded children are present to prevent children leaving unsupervised. Children are at ease and confident in the comfortable surroundings, which are appropriately organised to meet the needs of all the children attending. Most potential risks to the minded children have been adequately assessed and appropriate precautions have been put in place, such as provision of a fire blanket, smoke detector and socket covers.

Children are able to choose from a wide range of good quality toys. They confidently make decisions about what they do and play in a stimulating and caring environment. Children's safety is promoted through the childminder having a good understanding of protecting children.

The childminder has recently attended safeguarding children training and has an adequate understanding of procedures to be followed. Satisfactory documents are in place, therefore children are sufficiently protected. Local contact numbers are held for specialist support and advice.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's feelings of self-worth and belonging are enhanced by the warm, caring and affectionate relationship the childminder has with them.

They make confident choices from the wide variety of age appropriate toys and equipment available to them. For example, they confidently engage with the childminder in imaginative play and laugh as they say 'cheese' when taking pretend photographs. They are appropriately challenged with the activities they choose. They use their mathematical skills supported by the childminder as they pretend to purchase items from the shop.

Children are respected and their individual needs and preferences are incorporated well into the daily routine. Children are developing social skills, such as sharing and taking turns as they interact with one another in the childminders home and group sessions they attend.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder displays a positive attitude towards equality of opportunity, however, the children's understanding of diversity is limited as they do not have access to a satisfactory range of multi-cultural toys and equipment.

Children are all valued as individuals. The childminder spends quality time to get to know each child, including their interests and preferences. They learn effectively about the community they live in through visits to the local community.

The childminder displays a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of caring for children with additional needs. She is aware of the importance of liaising with parents and relevant agencies to be able to meet children's individual needs.

Children interact very well with the childminder, who makes suitable use of praise and encouragement. For example, the children listen to the childminder as she explains and gives them explanations why they should not play on the staircase. They happily accept her suggestion of an alternative play space. Appropriate behaviour management strategies are used, which ensures that the children understand right from wrong. Parents are generally kept informed of children's behaviour.

Positive relationships have been developed and maintained. All the required documentation is up to date. This ensures that children's needs are met and parents' wishes are reflected in the care provided.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder displays a positive attitude towards training which supports the care she provides to young children. She has recently completed first aid and safeguarding children awareness training.

Children feel at home and at ease with the childminder who balances her time effectively to meet the children's needs. The space within the home is sufficiently organised to accommodate minded children and the provision of a range of age appropriate activities. For example, the childminder ensures there is clear floor space so that the children have sufficient play space to move around safely.

The childminder is aware of the need to maintain, display and keep documentation. A record of attendance is completed, including the times that children attend, which ensures that ratios are met. This is well organised, easily accessible and confidentially stored, and discussed and shared with parents to keep them informed. The childminder has good knowledge and understanding of Ofsted's expectations of her, for example, her responsibility to inform Ofsted of any significant changes or events.

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 did not hold a valid certificate in first aid.

Children's health needs are now sufficiently met as the childminder has obtained a qualification in first aid for babies and young children.

### **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):

- increase supply of resources which reflect equality and diversity.

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)