



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY299283
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 July 2005
<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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2004. She lives with her husband and their two children aged 14 and 17 years old. They live in an established residential area of Gateshead close to shops, schools and park. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. Outings are undertaken daily as there is no outdoor play area.

The family has a dog and two cats.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is

registered to care for three children at any one time and is currently minding two children. She takes and collects children from the local school.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing their physical skills with a range of suitable activities such as taking walks, soft play and visiting places of interest. When the weather is less favourable, opportunities for physical activity are unnecessarily limited, as the childminder has not thought about how to provide these. The childminder ensures she has most of the appropriate documentation to support children's health needs however, permission has not been gained to seek emergency medical advice and treatment.

The childminder helps the children to stay healthy by providing an acceptable level of cleanliness, keeping pets safe and healthy and having a no-smoking policy. Children are learning how to take care of their bodies as they are encouraged to wash their hands before meals and, through the childminder's use of simple explanations, are beginning to understand why they have to do this. The risk of cross contamination is greatly reduced through the use of liquid soap and paper towels.

The childminder discusses and agrees children's dietary requirements with parents and considers children's likes and dislikes when providing food and drink. Older children are beginning to understand the importance of healthy eating and the type of food they need to help them grow.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised by the safe and secure environment. The childminder has sought advice from outside agencies with regard to the use of the combined utility room and toilet facilities, which helps to reassure parents and safe guards the children in her care. Children follow the childminder's clear boundaries for behaviour management outdoors. For example, they know to stop and listen for vehicles and hold her hand as this will help to keep them safe. Children can be safely evacuated from the premises in the event of a fire. All appropriate equipment has been obtained however, this equipment is not sited appropriately. The childminder has devised emergency care arrangements, which contributes to the continuity of care for the children.

The childminder has an adequate range of toys and equipment which children can access easily. The use of the toy library provides children with opportunities to choose resources which they are interested in and enjoy. Toys and equipment are checked to minimise the risk of accidents and injuries to children.

Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's sound knowledge of child

protection. She has a good awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse and, who to contact if concerns are raised.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well at the childminder's house. They enter confidently and make themselves at home. Through an adequate range of toys, games and activities children are able to make some individual decisions regarding their play and learning. However, their choices are sometimes limited, particularly for mark making and creative opportunities. Children have few opportunities to access natural play resources. This narrows the scope for very young children to develop their senses of smell, touch and taste. The childminder understands the need to spend time with children on an individual basis. She is aware that this will help to extend children's learning, sustain their interest and help to develop new skills.

The children are taken out daily within the local environment where they have opportunities for different learning experiences and where they socialise with other children and adults. They participate in some planned activities such as painting, card making and baking. As a result children develop their imagination and creativity. Children are sufficiently confident to explore and play independently.

The childminder organises consistent routines through the day so that children have times for rest and quiet as well as active play. This helps to ensure children feel secure and know what to expect.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The children are generally well behaved and respond to the boundaries set by the childminder. Children are learning to share and take turns during their play with support and guidance. The childminder demonstrates a willingness to care for children with special needs. She is aware of the need to adhere to a secure settling in period and the need to collate all relevant information to achieve a successful placement.

Children are beginning to learn about their local community through outings to the local park, soft play centre, toddler groups and museums. They are given opportunities to discuss the similarities and differences of the people and places they observe. Children learn about some aspects of the wider world through participating in craft and baking activities related to festivals such as Chinese New Year, Eid and Christmas. The childminder demonstrates an understanding of the need to provide resources which reflect diversity but as yet has not been able to relate this to the age of the children in her care.

Relevant information is exchanged with parents to ensure children are cared for within their usual routines. Parents receive verbal information to keep them informed

about the setting and their children's care and development.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

Suitable policies and procedures are in place to support the appropriate care of children and, to inform parents about the service that is provided. Children's needs and routines are discussed on a daily basis with parents, which contribute to the children's care and learning. Sufficient play space is available to the children in order for them to play in comfort. The childminder provides appropriate first aid equipment in the home but she does not hold a valid first aid certificate to ensure children's welfare in an emergency.

The childminder keeps most records but does not always complete these fully for example, children's attendance records are not kept up to date and details for children who are cared for on an occasional basis are not maintained, which could have an impact on their welfare. This practice compromises the safety and well-being of the children.

Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the children who attend.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for

infants and young children

- ensure that records relating to children's attendance and personal details are maintained accurately and are available for inspection at all times.

These actions are set out in a **notice of action to improve** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)