



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312640
Inspection date	16 June 2005
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been a registered childminder since May 1996. She lives in a semi-detached house in the Marton Manor area of Middlesbrough with her husband and 14 year old daughter. The family home is close to local amenities and primary schools.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years, there are currently six children on her register under eight years, attending for a variety of sessions. The lounge and kitchen are used for childminding and there is also a fully enclosed rear garden with a range of outdoor play equipment available.

The childminder is currently working towards a level three qualification in Children's Care, Learning and Development.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children take part in regular outdoor activities on outings and in the attractive garden with use of large and small equipment to encourage their physical development. The childminders good understanding of appropriate types of activities and levels of support gives them confidence to try new skills and build on existing ones.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home which contributes to their good health and sense of security. They learn about the importance of good hygiene practices through daily routines. The childminder supports and guides the children well, helping them to gain understanding of hygiene while increasing their personal independence.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. They are offered drinks throughout the day. They enjoy varied and nutritious snacks and meals. The childminder works well to meet each child's individual needs, she complies with special dietary requirements and takes into account children's preferences ensuring children remain healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a warm family home where effective safety measures allow them to move freely and explore independently. The childminder has sound systems in place to ensure children's safety inside and outside the home.

Children use a range of good quality toys and equipment which is appropriate to their age and stage of development. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to ensure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documentation in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example she holds a current first aid certificate and has a sound understanding of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder plans interesting activities which take into account children's individual interests. She is interested in what children do and say and becomes actively involved in their play, resulting in the children being interested and motivated

which promotes their all round development. Consistent support and meaningful praise encourages the children to become increasingly independent, to learn what they can do and know when to ask for help for example when doing puzzles and using small construction toys.

Children are settled and happy in the childminders care. Routines and care have been established which are consistent with home, this promotes children's sense of security and develops their confidence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children play with a good range of resources and take part in activities which promote positive images of the wider world. The childminder has a very good understanding of each child as an individual and uses this to plan and resource activities which all children find enjoyable and interesting.

Children behave very well. The childminder helps them to negotiate and take responsibility for their own behaviour by supporting them, being a positive role model, and encouraging the children to help each other. They learn to work harmoniously together and develop respect for each other.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the childminder has developed with their parents. Parent's views about their children's needs are actively sought before the child starts and on a regular basis. Parents are kept verbally informed about their child's day and activities. This enables the childminder to meet each child's individual needs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease with the well-organised environment. This means they are confident and can initiate their own learning. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children and the childminder organises her time well to meet the needs of the children.

The childminder is currently completing a level three qualification in children's care, learning and development. This is further increasing her knowledge and skills and allowing her to develop her practice. Records, policies and procedures support good practice, safeguarding children's welfare and ensuring parents are well informed of their children's progress, however the childminder omitted to inform Ofsted of recent structural changes to the premises.

The provision meets the needs of the children cared for.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. This is now in place ensuring the care and welfare of the children who attend.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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):

- ensure Ofsted is informed of changes to premises.

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