



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	312427
<b>Inspection date</b>	08 July 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Jacqueline West

<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 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 1994. She lives with her husband, adult son and twins aged 14. They live in a house in East Boldon, South Tyneside. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five all day and one child over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has no pets.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive because the childminder demonstrates very good knowledge of how children learn. The children are learning excellent personal hygiene practices through positive role modelling by the childminder. They are becoming increasingly independent in their personal care. Children are kept safe from the spread of infection by the childminder having consistently effective procedures in place. Children are able to adhere to specific dietary requirements through exceedingly well planned snacks and meals. Children's social skills are significantly enhanced through the varied opportunities to explore meal and snack times. The children have regular picnics and are gaining independence by using finger foods and by coming together around the family table at meal times. Children confidently ask for drinks when they are thirsty, as well as having fresh water and juice regularly provided.

Children's physical well being is rich, varied and imaginative due to the diverse ways that children's physical development is enhanced. Children enjoy a wide range of activities and have regular opportunity for physical play, with the option to rest and be active as they require.

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

The provision is good.

Children progress very well in a safe environment. They are kept safe through vigilant ongoing risk assessments, which are carried out daily by the childminder. Good relationships with the parents and appropriate documentation also contribute to the children's safety. The children are beginning to develop an understanding of how to keep safe when in and out of the home. Children are taken on regular outings to the park, soft play and local toddler group. They are kept safe as the childminder carries out risk assessments and is very vigilant, however, no contact details are available should an accident occur. Children have access to range of good quality equipment. They can participate in activities safely as furniture and resources are of an appropriate size. Children are well protected by the childminder as she demonstrates a sound understanding of child protection issues and the importance of confidentiality.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and enjoy their time in the setting. Children progress very well due to the childminders sound knowledge of child development and ability to recognise individual needs and respond accordingly. Children are well motivated to play with a variety of toys and activities, which offer appropriate challenge for their age, stage of development and individual interests. They also benefit from positive adult interaction on the child's level resulting in confident children who have a strong

sense of self. Children's communication skills are fostered well enhancing children's speaking and listening skills. Children's achievements are monitored ensuring they are provided with sufficient appropriate challenges. Written assessments are regularly carried out on children under three years. They are used as a prompt for the childminder to ensure all areas of development are being met in accordance to the Birth to three matters framework. Babies could benefit from exploring a wide variety of natural materials. Children have the opportunity to choose from a variety of resources offering appropriate challenges to all.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder demonstrates an excellent knowledge of equal opportunities and promotes it very well within the setting. All children are welcomed and included in the wide variety of experiences that promote a positive view of the wider world, alongside gaining a sense of achievement and enjoyment. The childminder demonstrates a very good understanding of the children's individual personalities in order to promote effective behaviour management. Children are learning to share and take turns through the childminders well planned activities and sensitive support. Children are very well behaved and benefit from an excellent role model. The childminder demonstrates a warm, calm, firm but fair approach to behaviour management. Parental involvement is highly beneficial to the continuity of care the children receive and it significantly enhances how the childminder effectively meets the needs of the individual children. Children's ongoing development is discussed regularly with the parents. Parents benefit from having access to clear well written policies that reflect the practice very well.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Overall the childminder meets the needs of the children who attend. The childminder effectively organises her home, enabling children to experience a stimulating, orderly and supportive environment. Children's time at the childminders home is fulfilling and productive, due to the childminders enthusiasm and commitment for the well being of the children. Children's care is enhanced by the positive attitude and disposition of the childminder. The records are up to date and well maintained resulting in a safe environment for children; however to further enhance the practices in place contact details for children should be readily available when on outings.

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

The childminder was asked to ensure that the drain in the rear garden is made safe. It is now inaccessible to children.

### **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 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):

- provide a range of natural resources for babies to explore
- ensure written details of individual children are easily accessible when on outings.

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)