

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	310025
<b>Inspection date</b>	01 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Cathryn Parry
<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 1989. She lives with her husband and one adult son in the Marden area of North Shields. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor of the childminder's house are used for childminding. She takes the children to the local park for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding six children under eight years. She also cares for children aged over eight years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends the local parent and toddler group. The family have two dogs and two guinea pigs.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children can participate fully in activities as the premises and equipment are clean. They are learning good personal hygiene practices through consistent routines and positive role modelling. This includes washing hands before meals and after the toilet. Comprehensive policies, good

relationships with parents and carers, and relevant training ensure individual children are cared for well should they become ill. This reduces the risk of cross infection. A first aid box specifically for the children is in place. However, some of the contents are out of date. This has a negative impact on children's well-being. Systems are in place to gather information from parents and carers regarding medical needs, dietary requirements and allergies. Consequently, individual needs are met completely.

Children flourish as they access good opportunities for physical play, including visiting a soft play area, swimming and playing football. They explore, test and develop physical control, for instance, when using climbing equipment in the park. The childminder's flexible routine incorporates time for quiet play and rest, enhancing children's well-being. A varied and imaginative menu encourages children to have a good awareness of healthy meal options and the opportunity to try new foods. These include a wide variety of fresh fruit, couscous and pasta dishes. They take part in food related activities, such as preparing vegetables and making soup. This encourages healthy eating and good lifestyle habits. Children confidently ask for drinks when they are thirsty, as well as having filtered water and milk regularly provided.

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

The provision is good.

Children are safeguarded well as the childminder's home is secure at all times. This is supplemented with effective procedures for adults collecting children, including the use of passwords. Windows in the living room and dining room enable children to benefit from natural light whilst playing indoors. Children's knowledge about personal safety is encouraged by gentle reminders from the childminder to pick up the toys so they do not trip, road safety activities and fire drill practices. They also show a good understanding of ground rules, such as not to run inside. This positively contributes to children developing a sense of danger and how to keep themselves safe. Those who go on outings are safeguarded, as the childminder supervises them closely and encourages good practice, such as holding hands. This is complemented with the use of age-appropriate restraints when needed.

Children are able to explore safely using a variety of well-maintained resources, which are appropriate for their age and stage of development. Individual needs are met well as the childminder ensures there is sufficient equipment available, including a high chair, appropriate car seats and buggies. A range of safety equipment is in place reducing the risk of accidents. This includes electrical socket covers, smoke detectors and a fireguard. The childminder has attended relevant child protection training and demonstrates a sound understanding of associated issues. All required procedures and documentation are in place to ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and are eager to participate in the variety of activities provided. These include playing musical instruments, sharing books and building with construction toys. Weekly plans show that a range of experiences are participated in. These include linking with other childminder's at their homes. Consequently, children access different outdoor play areas and equipment. Their social skills are also promoted as they interact with other minded children. The childminder offers appropriate levels of help and support to ensure that all children receive maximum enjoyment out of the activities. Effective use is made of the

local area giving children a breadth of opportunities, including trips to the beach, museums and the cinema.

Children's communication skills are fostered well through various activities, including songs and rhymes. This results in good interactions between themselves and the childminder. They show an awareness of shape as they complete puzzles and gain confidence when using number during every day experiences. An example of this is counting the apples at the shop. Children delight in using their imagination as they pretend to be crocodiles and dogs. They enjoy mark making and are developing good hand and eye coordination. A variety of creative activities, including making models of a fish tank and manipulating play dough are provided. Consequently, this promotes children's self-expression whilst having fun.

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

The provision is good.

A short induction period, including visits with parents and carers, enables children to settle into the new environment. The childminder's confident approach to equal opportunities actively contributes to children's positive attitudes to the wider community. This is complemented with access to a wide selection of resources, including dolls, books and dressing up clothes from different cultures. There are also a range of resources showing positive images of people with disabilities. This has a positive impact on raising children's awareness and understanding of difference. The childminder has experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities and shows a positive attitude to providing an inclusive environment.

Children are learning right from wrong and are starting to take responsibility for their own actions. The childminder's good understanding of their individual personalities promotes effective behaviour management. Good relationships with parents and carers are highly beneficial to the continuity of care that the children receive. Information is shared verbally with parents and carers on a daily basis. This is complemented with written sheets being provided at the end of the week highlighting activities and experiences that have been participated in. A complaints procedure is in place. However, it has not been reviewed to include Ofsted's current contact details. This has a negative impact on empowering parents and carers to make a formal complaint.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's play opportunities are maximised through the effective organisation of space, time and resources. The use of the living room, dining room and kitchen enables children to play alone or with others. They can also partake in quieter or more boisterous activities. The flexible routine includes time to give children a range of experiences, such as visiting the fire station. There are also opportunities to attend the local parent and toddler group, which develops children's social skills. Children are involved in choosing which toys are to be available the next day. This is complemented with the childminder rotating resources, which inspires children to play.

The childminder's ongoing commitment to training has a significantly positive impact on the high quality of care provided. She shows a raised awareness of the effect of activities and experiences on children's overall development. This is complemented with her having successfully completed a quality assurance scheme. Policies and procedures are in place and shared with parents and carers before their children start to attend. Consequently, they are well informed

of the care provided. Individual documentation is stored very securely to maintain confidentiality. This ensures children's well-being and privacy are respected throughout.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

At the previous inspection the provider was asked to ensure the smoke alarm on the first floor is in working order. The childminder regularly checks all the smoke detectors and has a written log of checks made. This has a positive impact on safeguarding 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 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):

- ensure the contents of the first aid box are checked, removed and replaced when out of date
- review the complaints procedure to include Ofsted's current contact details.

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)