

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	310118
Inspection date	12 November 2007
Inspector	Julie, Anne Swan
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 was registered in 1998. She lives with her husband, mother and daughter aged eleven in Whitley Bay. The whole ground floor and one of the first floor bedrooms of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed yard for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five all day, and two children 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 have a rabbit.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

All children's health and well-being is extremely well promoted and greatly enhanced through the childminder's robust knowledge and understanding of a healthy lifestyle. She is a very good role model and actively promotes children's good health by ensuring that they adopt very good personal hygiene routines. Children are encouraged to become independent as appropriate to

their age and ability. For instance, older children attend to their own personal care, such as toileting and have a very good understanding of the need to hand wash, so they are highly effective in managing their own needs.

Children are introduced to an extremely healthy diet with a variety of fresh food, fruits and vegetables. Children talk about their favourite foods and know what they like and do not like. They are encouraged to make healthy choices regarding the food they eat. The childminder does this by providing the children with an array of small bowls at meal times, the bowls are filled with colourful attractive foods which the children eagerly serve themselves from. Children are provided with fresh drinking water and juice throughout the day, which they again, know they can help themselves to with ease.

Everyday opportunities for outdoor play are incorporated into the daily routine, allowing children to benefit from fresh air and exercise. All children have access to a broad range of physical play resources. During inclement weather, the childminder makes use of local facilities such as toddler groups and soft play, and good provision is made for indoor play in her home. This along with the ample support and encouragement given by the childminder allows them to test their abilities and further enhance and develop their physical skills. Strong relationships and excellent communication with parents enable the childminder to effectively preserve and promote children's good health and growth.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home where risks are identified and minimised. However, the fire blanket is not easily accessible in the event of a fire. They use the ground floor rooms only and are able to use the space safely and independently. The childminder remains in close contact with the children whilst allowing them to choose activities for themselves, which helps to promote safety and prevent accidents in their play. The childminder gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe. For example, children understand to stay clear of the oven when it is on as it may be hot.

Systems are in place for the childminder to check toys and resources for cleanliness and safety, which results in children having a wide range of quality items to play with.

The childminder has all the required policies, procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. She has attended a child protection course and is aware of her responsibility to protect children and to keep them safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual needs and welfare are promoted because the childminder knows them well and caters for each individual child in her care. Children enjoy and achieve during their time with the childminder because of the good relationship between them. Children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities are promoted as they enjoy a range of freely accessible toys and equipment. The childminder plans each day to ensure children have wide and varied opportunities for play. The childminder explains to the children what they need to do then encourages them to try things on their own. For example, when children are baking cakes, she shows them how to crack the eggs and then encourages them to try themselves. The childminder sometimes supports the children to complete the task if they require help.

The childminder has a very clear knowledge of child development. She has a wealth of experience as a childminder and keeps up to date with current practices through training. She implements her experience and knowledge to positively underpin her care of all children. Therefore, opportunities are provided enabling children across all age ranges to make excellent progress. Resources are frequently changed to constantly keep children interested and engaged. She provides a very good balance of adult led activities such as discovering their environment, whilst allowing children ample opportunity to initiate their own play and learn through exploration.

Children form warm and trusting relationships with the childminder and develop a strong sense of belonging. The nurturing environment and the childminder's sensitive, caring nature helps children feel totally secure in her care. Young children develop a positive sense of self worth as they are praised for their achievements. They feel well supported and understood as the childminder is fully in tune with their wishes and needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are welcomed and treated according to their individual needs. Young children and babies demonstrate a sense of belonging and self assurance. Children are offered choices and are able to build on new skills and have lots of different experiences. Children's and parents wishes are discussed before the child first attends. The childminder has a positive attitude to the children in her care, and takes a close interest in who they are and what they need and want.

Children learn about themselves and the wider world from a range of resources promoting positive images of diversity. They discuss different cultures and beliefs, and they have access to books, puzzles and posters. Children are introduced to and experience the rich culture and language of the childminder, which they have embraced and use confidently.

Children understand the expected behavioural boundaries set by the childminder. Praise and encouragement is used at all times and distraction is used if necessary. The childminder has high expectations of the children, they respond well to this and have high expectations of themselves. They sometimes remind each other of the house rules, for example, taking turns and sharing. If there are concerns about a child's behaviour then this would be discussed with parents in a professional and friendly way. The childminder is a good role model to children and manages behaviour in a way that promotes their welfare and development. She is positive and open in her approach to children.

Children benefit from consistent care because the childminder talks to parents regularly about their child and their development. She talks to them at the beginning of each day giving parents a breakdown of the possible things their child will be involved in during the day as well as speaking to them at the end of the day.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall the provision meets the need of the range of the children for whom it provides. All of the required documentation is in place and is well maintained, organised and presented. Robust policies and procedures are used most effectively to promote the children's development and well-being.

The childminder has a very strong commitment to the continuous development of her childminding practice to provide a quality service. She keeps abreast of current issues in child care by accessing training which ensures she is well informed and up to date with new developments. Children benefit greatly from this as the childminder uses the skills and knowledge gained to further enhance children's all round development and learning. For example, Birth to three matters framework.

Children move freely around the main rooms used under the childminder's close supervision, and are most at ease within the childminding environment. They are taken on frequent outings and have ample opportunity for exercise. Parents are kept well informed of their child's progress and day to day activities, and are actively encouraged to keep the childminder up to date with relevant information. This enables her to continue to best meet the evolving needs of the individual children for whom she cares.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection a recommendation relating to safeguarding children was raised. The childminder now ensures contact details for child protection agencies are readily available, thus ensuring children's welfare and safety.

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 fire blanket is sited according to manufacturers instructions.

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