

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312513
Inspection date	19 July 2007
Inspector	Cilla Burdis
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 registered since 1999. She lives with her partner and one child aged 10 months in Jarrow, South Tyneside. The living room of her ground floor flat is the main area used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed yard for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children and is currently caring for three children on a part-time basis. The childminder regularly attends a local toddler group and collects children from local schools. She is a member of South Tyneside Childminder Network and is a qualified nursery nurse.

The childminder has two rabbits, which are kept in hutches in the yard.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well presented, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care through their daily routine. Effective nappy changing procedures

are followed to promote good hygiene and children have their own towels and toothbrushes. The children are reminded to wipe their noses and cover their mouths when coughing. This reduces the risk of illness and cross infection. The effective recording of emergency contacts, medication permission and accidents promotes children's health and well-being.

The children enjoy many opportunities to develop their physical skills. The older children enjoy bike rides, walks to the park and two children attend Irish dancing classes once a week. The children enjoy climbing, riding wheeled toys and ball games. When they visit the toddler group they also have access to a multi-sensory room, which provides a calm and relaxing atmosphere where children can explore light, sound and texture. Babies have plenty of floor space to practise their mobility skills and are enabled to join in activities at a level they can manage under the guidance of the childminder.

Children's individual dietary requirements are met in partnership with parents. Children are encouraged to eat healthy options at mealtimes and are provided with fruit and yogurt at snack time. Children accompany the childminder on visits to the local shops where they are encouraged to think about choosing healthy options. The children are encouraged to talk about why some foods are more healthy than others. This helps children to develop an awareness of a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe environment. The childminder has minimised risks to children's safety within her home and carries out a visual safety check before the children arrive. The childminder provides sensitive reminders to help children learn about keeping themselves safe. She talks to the children about ways of promoting their own safety both indoors and on outings. Regular fire drills help children to become familiar with the action they must take in the event of an emergency. Children's safety is promoted well on outings as the childminder has age appropriate car seats for transporting children. The childminder undertakes a risk assessment of the area they are visiting and carries a card with all their contact details, including information that she is a registered childminder.

The premises are well organised so that children can play safely, freely and independently. The children have easy access to a broad range of toys and activities, which enables choice and independence. Resources include both plastic and natural resources to stimulate children's sensory awareness.

Children are very well protected by the childminder who is secure in her knowledge of safeguarding children. She has a written policy, which parents receive to ensure they have a clear understanding of the childminder's responsibility to safeguard their child. The childminder maintains a current first aid certificate. Consequently, children are well protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder. Her caring and sensitive approach help the children to settle well. Children benefit from the childminder responding positively to them and showing an interest in what they say and do. They receive good levels of comfort and support, which helps develop their self-esteem and confidence. The childminder follows a

flexible routine, which is adapted in accordance with the children's needs and is organised around children's mealtimes. This helps to develop children's sense of belonging and security.

The childminder has a broad range of resources that provide children with appropriate levels of challenge to help them make progress in their development. Children are able to make choices about their play, which has a positive impact on them having fun. The childminder knows the children well and is able to provide appropriate levels of support or challenge to help them learn. The childminder observes the children and develops their interests to increase their level of knowledge and understanding. For example, a child shows an interest in money so the childminder involves the children in activities about shopping. This helps them to learn about using money to pay for things and that coins have different values. The older children enjoy creative activities, such as making heart shaped cakes for Valentine's Day and making salt dough figures to decorate. Babies are provided with resources to encourage the development of mobility skills and their sensory awareness. They are provided with opportunities to examine and explore, for example, looking at their reflections in the mirror and pressing buttons to make different sounds on the activity centre. Effective use is made of the local area, giving children a breadth of opportunities. Examples of this include trips to the library, farm, soft play and beach.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children and their families are highly valued and respected. Children are encouraged to participate in a full range of activities. They are becoming independent as they are encouraged and supported very well to make their own decisions by, for example, choosing their own activities. Children's individual needs are well addressed as the childminder is fully informed about each child before they are left in her care. The childminder observes the children closely to ensure they are provided with appropriate care and activities in accordance with their needs.

Children behave well because the childminder is clear and consistent in her approach, which helps children learn what is expected of them. The childminder provides reasons as to why a behaviour must stop and encourages children to reflect on what they have done, with her support. Children are helped to develop an understanding of others and to consider the needs and feelings of others through sharing and taking turns. The children play well together and provide support for the younger ones to involve them in their play.

Relationships with parents are promoted and developed well. Prospective parents have access to very informative policies and procedures about the childminder, her family and the setting. Information about the complaints procedure is shared with parents. Parents are kept very well informed about their child's care and activities through verbal feedback and daily diaries. They are consulted about all aspects of their child's care. Contracts are reviewed every six months and information about the placement is shared and discussed regularly. This ensures the continuity of children's care between the home and childminding environment.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well cared for and display a sense of belonging. The childminder's home is well organised and keeps children safe and secure. Toys and resources are organised effectively, enabling children to make choices about their play. Documentation is well organised and records are up to date. The register, however, does not show the times that children are not on the

premises, for example, when they are attending school. Effective written policies and procedures are in place and copies are given to parents. The childminder's registration certificate is prominently displayed in the living room. All adults living on the premises have undergone relevant checks to ensure their suitability to be in close proximity of children.

Children benefit immensely from the childminder's active involvement with the local childminder network. Committed to ongoing personal development, the childminder has recently attended a number of relevant training sessions, including Child Protection, Story Sacks, Fire Prevention and Working with Parents. Regular monitoring and assessment of her practice ensures the childminder provides the best opportunities for children in her care.

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 it was recommended that the childminder continues to develop the good childminding practice. The childminder is on an approved childminder network, which provides opportunities to share good practice and keep up to date with changes. The childminder has attended a number of training sessions to develop her knowledge and skills. This impacts positively on the quality of care the childminder provides for 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):

- make sure the daily register identifies times that older children are off the premises and at school

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