

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	312519
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 November 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 1992. She lives with her husband in the residential area of Jarrow in South Tyneside. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor of the childminder's house are used for childminding. 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. She walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends the local parent and toddler group.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well-maintained environment, where toys and equipment are cleaned regularly. They are beginning to understand simple health and hygiene practices. Examples of this are where they wash their hands after using the toilet and spontaneously cover their mouths when they cough. The childminder implements suitable procedures for nappy changing and

toilet training, to ensure the personal care needs of the very young are met. Children do not attend if they are sick, which enables the childminder to protect others from illness. She can respond appropriately if children have an accident as she is trained to administer first aid. Written permission has also been obtained from parents and carers to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. This has a positive impact on children's well-being. However, although parents and carers do sign a generic form for the childminder to administer medicines, written permission is not obtained each day medicines are to be given. Consequently, this has detrimental effect on children's welfare.

Children's general health is enhanced through effectively planned opportunities for large physical play, either outdoors or with visits to local amenities. They explore, test and develop physical control, for instance when playing football or using climbing equipment in the park. The childminder's flexible routine incorporates time for quiet play and rest, enhancing children's well-being. Parents and carers bring their children's meals, which are stored in the fridge to ensure foods stay fresh. Consequently, individual needs are met well. This is complemented by the childminder providing healthy snacks, such as fruit. Relevant documentation with regard to health, including specific dietary needs are in place and up to date. These positively safeguard children's well-being.

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

The provision is good.

Children feel secure as the childminder provides a welcoming and safe environment. They are safeguarded well as the childminder's home is secure at all times. This is supplemented with effective procedures for adults collecting children. They are able to move freely as there is adequate space, which is clean and well-maintained. This reduces the risk of accidents. Large windows in the living room and conservatory enable children to benefit from natural light whilst playing indoors. They participate in activities fully, as furniture and equipment are of an appropriate size. Those who go on outings are kept safe as they learn road safety procedures and understand simple rules, such as holding hands when crossing the road. This is complemented with the use of age-appropriate restraints when needed.

The childminder has taken action to ensure that risks inside and outside her home have been minimised, so that children can play safely. Children experience good levels of supervision and appropriate safety equipment is in place to ensure hazards are reduced. These include a fire guard, several smoke detectors and a stair gate. The childminder uses simple explanation and encouragement with regard to staying safe. An example of this is where she discusses with the little boy how the small world telephone might get stuck if he puts it in his ear. As a result, children begin to understand the potential dangers and how to keep themselves safe. She has attended relevant child protection training and demonstrates a sound understanding of associated issues. Consequently, children are safeguarded well. All the required documentation is 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 are happy, settled and relate well to the childminder, as she joins in with their play. They enjoy their time in the childminding environment and are eager to participate in the variety of activities provided. These include exploring the dolls house and small world figures and playing with the cars and track. They benefit from a flexible routine including a balance of

child-centred and adult-led activities. Effective use is made of the local area giving children a breadth of opportunities. Examples of this are where they visit the park to feed the ducks and the library. Children delight in using their imagination, for instance as they pretend to make biscuits in the pretend microwave oven. They have a growing understanding of the world that they live in through a variety of well-planned and spontaneous activities.

Children show an awareness of shape as they complete puzzles. Their communication skills are fostered well through various activities, including sharing books. This results in competent speakers and listeners. They enjoy mark making and are developing good hand-eye coordination. Children's mathematical thinking is encouraged as they explore numerals in books and jigsaws. A variety of creative activities, including painting, cutting and sticking, promote children's self-expression whilst having fun. They have excellent opportunities to socialise with others as they attend toddler groups and sit at the table together for meals.

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

The provision is good.

A short induction period, including visits with parents, enables children to settle into the new environment. Children develop a sensitive awareness of diversity and an understanding of the needs of others. This is achieved through a range of activities and resources, which promote a positive outlook of the wider world. These include celebrating different festivals, such as Chinese New Year and exploring figures from different cultures and those with disabilities. The childminder does not have any experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. However, she shows a positive attitude to providing an inclusive environment.

Effective partnership with parents and carers ensures individual needs are met well, which promotes stability. Detailed information is shared verbally with parents and carers on a daily basis. Consequently, they are aware of the activities their children have participated in. Children behave well and are beginning to understand the consequences of unacceptable behaviour to others. The childminder has good strategies in place for managing behaviour, which are appropriate to the children's ages and stages of development and understanding. These are shared with parents and carers before their children start to attend.

### **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, conservatory and kitchen with dining area enables children to play alone or with others. They are also able to access a range of opportunities, such as participating in craft activities at the dining table. Effective use of time enables children to participate in a variety of experiences both indoors and out. Toys and resources are rotated so that children are inspired to participate. They are attractively set out at the children's height to encourage free choice and independence.

The childminder's ongoing commitment to training has a significantly positive impact on the high quality of care provided. Children's welfare is appropriately safeguarded as the childminder and other household members have had suitable checks completed. She is aware of her current registration requirements and adheres to them. This has a positive impact on children's well-being. Relevant policies and procedures are in place and stored safely to maintain confidentiality.

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 childminder was asked to make sure that blind cords are inaccessible to children. The cords have now been shortened, which has a positive impact on children's welfare.

### **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 parents and carers give written permission each day that medicines are to be administered.

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)