

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312669
Inspection date	27 July 2007
Inspector	Donna Suzanne Lancaster
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 1990. She lives with her husband in Middlesbrough, close to local amenities. Children have use of the ground floor of the property and there is an enclosed garden for outdoor activities. The family has a pet dog.

The childminder is registered to care for 6 children under eight years. She is currently caring for 7 children, of whom four are aged under eight years.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Middlesbrough Childminder Network. She has relevant childcare qualifications.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's dietary needs are well met through the childminder having a good understanding of the dietary needs of children and providing healthy meals and snacks. Children's preferences and parents' wishes are actively sought and reflected in the menu provided. Mealtimes are

promoted as a positive experience for all the children; they sit together and enjoy positive social interaction. Children are given free access to drinks and have a choice of milk, juice or water.

The childminder has good systems in place to fully promote the children's health needs, for example, appropriate procedures and documentation for the recording of accidents and the administration of medication, however, not all medications that have been administered are signed by parents, and written permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice is not obtained from parents. Children are learning about good hygiene practice. For instance, children know why they must wash their hands before meals and after toileting. One child recites clearly that they also use anti-bacterial hand gel when they have been stroking the dog and when they go on outings, she states 'just in case we have germs on our hands'. The childminder puts in place effective measures to reduce the risk of cross infection, such as regular checking and cleaning of the toilet area and providing individual paper towels for children to dry their hands on. The childminder ensures babies wear bibs when enjoying their drinks and snacks and she uses flannels and wet wipes to keep them clean. Children sleep according to their own needs and fully in accordance with parents' wishes. Children are protected from any potential health risks posed by the dog which is regularly treated for fleas and worms. There are clear written details for the exclusion of sick children to prevent cross contamination, the details of which are shared with parents. This further promotes the environment as a healthy one.

Children's physical development is very well promoted through the provision of regular fun and well organised activities, both within the home, outings and in the garden. There is an excellent selection of outdoor play equipment which includes a swing, slide and many bikes and push along toys. Outings are undertaken regularly to such venues as Preston Park, toddler groups, museums and trips to the seaside. Babies are able to move and develop their crawling and walking skills successfully as they reach for toys, which shows their awareness of learning to do things for themselves as they gain confidence.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's development is enhanced through the provision of an excellent selection of toys and equipment which is varied and broad ranging. The equipment is effectively used by the childminder who provides activities that are stimulating and fun. The ongoing safety and suitability of the toys and equipment are ensured through the childminder implementing an effective policy of checking after each use and regular cleaning. Children's safety on outings is protected by measures that include younger children holding hands at all times and older children remaining nearby. Children are learning about road safety. They know that they must stop, look and listen and wait for the green man to flash, before they can cross the road.

Fire safety is enhanced as the evacuation procedure is practised regularly. Children are fully aware of the procedure and know how to evacuate the home in an emergency. Children are supervised effectively and there is a procedure to follow in the event of a child been lost or uncollected. Procedures for child protection are very clearly understood by the childminder, she is aware of the possible signs and symptoms of children at risk. A written policy is available, always shared with parents, and the childminder recognises the protection of children is her first priority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are extremely happy and sociable. They greet each other and the childminder on arrival with huge excitement. They are eager to get into the playroom, where they immediately dress up as Spiderman and a fairy princess. All the children play well together with great enthusiasm as they take great delight in playing skittles and helping each other make shapes out of dough. Children have developed very good relationships with the childminder and each other; they are confident and relaxed in the caring environment. Children develop confidence and self-esteem due to the warm welcome, the cheerful interaction and encouragement they receive from the childminder. For example, the childminder encourages the children to write their own names on their drawings and tells them 'clever boy, what a good attempt, well done, that's really good'. Children are clearly settled, relaxed and very much at home in their surroundings. The childminder is always interested and makes time to listen to them.

The childminder has attended training on the 'Birth to three matters', and plans suitable activities in line with the aspects and approach within the framework. Babies keenly take an interest in the suitable range of activities on offer to them, such as musical activities, pop-up activity centres and teething ring. They frequently giggle and smile at the older children playing, watching their every move.

Children spend their time purposefully. They are animated and enthusiastic as they make choices about their play from the wide range of toys, equipment and play materials on offer to them. The childminder plans exciting learning activities and supports them when they initiate their own play, for example, in their role play, drawing pictures and making up jigsaws together. They are beginning to learn to use their imagination well, try out new things and are effectively challenged in their learning. They are growing in confidence because the childminder gives them time and encouragement to develop new skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Very successful relationships with parents ensure that the childminder is able to meet individual children's needs. For example, verbal information is shared efficiently, and records of children's activities and achievements are kept in a daily diary. Conversation with a parent, as well as very complimentary letters and cards, confirm that they are extremely happy with all aspects of the childminding service and the positive impact this has on their children.

Children learn about the community they live in through regular visits to local facilities, including shops, the library, museums and the park. There are good resources available within the provision that positively reflect the wider society, for example, dressing up clothes, books and jigsaws. The children celebrate festivals from around the world and enjoying making and tasting foods from other countries. This helps to further develop children's understanding about diversity in our society. The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding and knowledge of caring for children with disabilities or learning difficulties.

The childminder ensures that children are warmly welcomed into her home. Her cheerful and friendly manner helps support their sense of belonging. Children are very clear about their behavioural boundaries, such as sharing, taking turns and being kind to each other. Explanations about why certain behaviour is unkind or unacceptable are used effectively and this helps children to feel secure. There is a strong emphasis on good manners; children say please and

thank you without prompting and this promotes a culture of respect for others. They tidy toys away after themselves, supported by the childminder in a way that is fun for them.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a clear sense of purpose and a strong commitment to continual improvement and development. She does this through regularly attending training and study days. She holds a recognised childcare qualification. The childminder demonstrates a high regard for the well-being of all children. Space, resources and routines are well organised to ensure children have easy access to the facilities and equipment they need. They can move safely in the home environment and take part in a very wide range of interesting and stimulating activities, including organised activities, free play, mealtimes, quiet times and outdoor activities.

Mandatory documentation is all in perfect order and stored with a high regard for confidentiality. The childminder has written and adopted a full range of very informative, detailed policies and procedures which she shares very effectively with all parents. They all work well in practice to promote very good outcomes for children and accurately reflect her working practice. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to devise and implement a system to record any incidents of physical restraint. The childminder has further developed her documentation to include a book to record any incident which may occur. However, there have been none to record. This helps to further improve the childminder's documentation and protect 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 that parents sign all records of medications that have been administered by the childminder

- obtain written request from parents to seek emergency medical treatment or advice.

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