

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312811
Inspection date	29 November 2007
Inspector	Josephine Ann Northend
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 lives with her husband and three children aged nine, 12 and 18 years. The accommodation used for childminding is a detached house in an established residential area in Middlesbrough. There are local amenities close by, including a bus route, shops, playgroups and parks. They are used by the childminder. Areas of the house used for childminding are the lounge and dining area. There is a toilet located at ground floor level. There is an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder has been registered since January 2000 to care for four children under eight years. There are currently four children currently attending for a variety of sessions. Three of these are under eight years. The family has a pet rabbit, chickens, and tropical and cold water fish.

Membership of the National Childminding Association is held and the Middlesbrough Childminding Group. The childminder holds a level 3 childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean home. The childminder has good hygiene routines in place to protect and promote children's health. There are clear policies and procedures in place regarding sick children, medication and accident recording; this means children's health needs are met. Procedures followed by the childminder result in children being protected from the spread of infection, for example, as they wash their hands after using the toilet and learn why they need to do so.

Children enjoy a varied range of activities which contribute to their good health. They walk to and from school, weather permitting, and enjoy using a range of equipment in the enclosed garden, for example, seesaw, tricycles and scooters. This means they have fresh air and exercise each day and their physical development is promoted. Children are able to rest and be active according to their individual needs.

The childminder demonstrates good understanding of healthy eating. She works with parents to ensure children's individual dietary needs are met and children receive a varied and nutritious diet. Many meals are home cooked; this means the childminder is aware of what they contain. Children have access to drinks throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a child orientated and friendly home where most risks are identified and minimised. The childminder has clear health and safety policies in place to support her practice. This means children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. A detailed fire plan is in place. Emergency evacuation procedures are practised regularly with the children and the record is maintained clearly.

Furniture, equipment and toys, which are of good quality and in a safe, well maintained condition, are provided to promote children's development and welfare. Toys and resources are stored so that children can reach them easily, make choices and develop their independence.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documentation in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded. They are well protected as the childminder has clear understanding of her responsibilities with regards to child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have good relationships with the childminder and are well settled and happy in her care. They learn to be increasingly independent as a result of the consistent support, praise and encouragement given to them.

Children ask questions because the childminder is very interested in what the children have to say and she extends the children's thoughts and ideas. For example, children recall events in stories and answer the childminder's questions about the story. This contributes to their sense of belonging.

The childminder demonstrates good understanding of how children learn and she is very aware of the children's developmental stages. An interesting range of activities are undertaken which take into account children's individual interests and the children's imagination is fostered through good role play experiences. The childminder makes good use of the local amenities to further enhance children's experiences, for example, a play park.

Activities and play opportunities are purposeful and developmentally appropriate, resulting in children acquiring new skills and knowledge. The children receive support from the childminder and they are involved in a wide range of activities that promote learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a good range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity. For example, musical instruments and dressing up clothes. They complete activities about religious festivals and learn about the local community as they take part in outings to the local amenities. The childminder has a very positive attitude towards caring for all children including those with physical disabilities and learning difficulties.

Children are well behaved and receive appropriate support from the childminder who uses positive strategies for managing behaviour. This helps the children to understand the boundaries set and to behave well.

Children benefit from the positive relationships the childminder has developed with their parents. Parents receive an information pack, which includes information about the childminder's policies and procedures. Verbal information is shared about the child's day and activities they have been involved in. This means all parents are kept informed of how their child has been and enables the childminder to meet each child's needs well.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are settled with the childminder and in the environment. This means that they are happy in their play. Space is used well to cater for the children's play needs. They are able to move around confidently. Adult-child ratios are maintained with good organisation of time to allow children one-to-one attention and meet individual needs.

Most required records are in place, however, they are not all maintained well, for example the register of children's attendance does not always clearly show the date and the childminder's registration certificate is not prominently displayed. The childminder keeps her knowledge up to date by attending regular training; the knowledge gained is used to enhance the care that is given to the children. 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 further develop awareness of child protection procedures. The childminder now has clear understanding of her role and responsibilities in relation to child protection. This means the welfare of children is safeguarded.

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 registration certificate is prominently displayed
- further develop records to ensure all are in place and up to date.

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