

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY224779
Inspection date	08 January 2008
Inspector	Ann Coggin
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in September 2002. She lives with her partner, adult daughter and four-year-old daughter in the town centre area of Hartlepool. All of the ground floor is used for childminding. The upstairs is not used. There is a rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time but has not cared for any since June 2007.

No children on roll.

When a provider does not have children on roll at the time of the inspection, inspection judgements are based on evidence gathered from discussions with the provider and an inspection of the premises, equipment and relevant documentation.

As there are no children on roll, the quality of the provision cannot be judged better than satisfactory because there is no reliable evidence on which to assess its impact on children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a sound understanding of suitable procedures to promote children's health, by ensuring that positive steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures are put in place when children are ill. (National Standard 7: Health)

The childminder ensures that food and drink for children is adequate, properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements. (National Standards 8: Food and drink)

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are safe, secure and include necessary facilities for children. The childminder demonstrates an awareness of how to ensure the environment is made welcoming to children. (National Standard 4: Physical environment)

The furniture, equipment and toys are safe and appropriate for the needs of the children. (National Standard 5: Equipment)

The childminder understands how to promote children's safety and takes precautions to prevent accidents. However, the pond is accessible to children. (National Standard 6: Safety)

The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection procedures approved by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and is aware of their responsibility to protect the welfare of the child. (National Standard 13: Child protection)

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of how individual children develop and learn. (National Standard 3: Care, Learning and Play)

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has an appropriate knowledge and awareness of the importance of treating each child with equal respect and concern. (National Standard 9: Equal opportunities)

She is aware that some children may have learning difficulties or disabilities, and understands the importance of working in partnership with parents and with other professionals to promote the welfare and development of the child. (National Standard 10: Special needs)

The childminder shows a willingness and commitment to working with parents to manage children's behaviour in a consistent way which promotes the child's welfare and development. (National Standard 11: Behaviour management)

She has a satisfactory understanding of the need to develop a strong partnership with parents, taking into account their differing needs. (National Standard 12; Working in partnership with parents and carers)

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is aware of the duty to ensure that other people living or working on the premises are suitable to be in contact with children. However, a requirement of registration has not been fully met as not all adults living in the home have undergone checks. (National Standard 1: Suitable person)

She understands the importance of working within the constraints of the condition of registration relating to number of children; and of organising space and resources to best meet the needs of the children. (National Standard 2: Organisation)

The childminder has a sound awareness of the records to be kept and the importance of these. (National Standard 14: Documentation)

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to continue to develop resources that reflect positive images of culture, gender, disability and ethnicity. A range of resources and activities are available to help promote children's awareness of diversity.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 have procedures for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents and to keep a record of complaints and their outcome.

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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):

- assess the risks to children in relation to the pond and take action to minimise these

- ensure any person over the age of 16 years, living in the household when children are being minded, undergo checks including a criminal record.

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