

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	512093
Inspection date	30 July 2007
Inspector	Vivienne Dempsey

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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2000. She is registered to provide care for six children under eight years. There are currently three children on roll.

The childminder lives in a semi-detached house on the Fens Estate in Hartlepool. She lives with her husband who is also a registered childminder. The whole of the ground floor and upstairs bathroom and rear bedroom are used for childminding. Children have access to a fully enclosed rear garden.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and attends local pre-school groups with the children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises and equipment are clean. Children are encouraged to learn about personal hygiene as they are encouraged to wash their hands before snacks and meals and after toileting. The

childminder has some good practices in place to prevent the spread of infection. However, these are not consistently followed during nappy changing routines and a policy for the exclusion of sick children is not in place. This does not fully protect children from cross contamination.

Written parental consent for seeking emergency medical treatment is sought. This ensures children receive appropriate emergency care when necessary.

All children are encouraged to eat healthily and a range of fruits are available for snack, such as apple and banana. Drinks are readily available, which helps children to learn the importance of drinking regularly. Children develop their physical skills and keep fit through a range of outdoor activities. They enjoy the garden, visits to the local adventure playground and park. There are suitable arrangements for rest and sleep, according to children's individual needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for and protected in a secure, welcoming and safe home. The available space is used well in both the house and garden. Children have easy independent access to a wide and appropriate range of toys and equipment, which helps to develop children's learning skills.

Positive steps have been taken to ensure the pond is safe and inaccessible to children. The outdoor play area is secure and children are not able to leave unsupervised. However, the glass in the newly erected shed has not been made safe for children.

Children's welfare is suitably safeguarded as the childminder understands her role in child protection and can act if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are happy and settled. They interact positively with the childminder and she responds well to their individual needs. The children enjoy taking part in an appropriate range of activities and play opportunities, providing them with a variety of learning experiences, which develops their language and social skills. For example, they enjoy baking sessions, help make their own breakfast, playing in the wet and dry sand and visiting the local libraries.

The childminder listens to and values what the children say, which develops their self-esteem and confidence. Resources are readily accessible to children. This helps develop their independence and supports their play and learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are treated with equal concern and valued as individuals. Clear information regarding children's needs are gathered, enabling the childminder to provide the appropriate care. The children have some access to a range of activities and resources that promote positive images of disability and different family backgrounds. For example, a range of books and jigsaws. The childminder is proactive in welcoming children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Children are well behaved, as the childminder uses a positive approach to managing behaviour, according to the children's age and stage of development. The childminder has a positive relationship with parents. There are daily opportunities for a two-way sharing of information, which ensures children's individual needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are confident and secure in an organised, safe and welcoming home. The childminder has an up to date first aid certificate and has undertaken the relevant vetting procedures. This helps to ensure that children receive appropriate care.

The childminder's documents are maintained and stored appropriately to ensure confidentiality. Documents are readily available for inspection. These are also shared with parents, which keep parents informed of their child's care and routines. Information about the service the childminder provides is also readily available to parents.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder was asked to extend the range of activities and resources that promote positive images of disability and different family backgrounds. She has now ensured that children have some access to a range of activities and resources that promote positive images of disability and different family backgrounds, for example, a range of books and jigsaws.

Complaints since the last inspection

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.

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.

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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):

- ensure procedures for nappy changing are followed consistently and devise a sick child policy, to prevent the spread of infection

- assess the risk to children in relation to the glass in the shed and take action to minimise this.

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