



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY221269
<b>Inspection date</b>	08 September 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Jean Wilson

<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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged 2 and 4 in County Durham. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed, decked rear yard for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group and takes children to the local park.

The childminder has a NVQ Level 3 Award in Childcare and networks with other childminders. She supports children with special educational needs.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children's health is a priority for the childminder. They are kept clean and healthy through her good understanding of health issues and the sensible hygiene routines which are in place. They are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Their clear understanding of why they must wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet reduces the risk of cross contamination. Talking to children about the benefits of cleaning their teeth would further raise their awareness of good hygiene.

Children's independence is actively fostered and they are supported in making healthy choices while their likes and dislikes are respected. Children are able to choose from a variety of healthy snacks and well balanced meals provided by the childminder. Close co-operation between the childminder and parents ensures children's individual dietary needs are met. They are regularly offered drinking water, milk and fruit juices throughout the day.

Children's physical play is supported by a fully enclosed and safe outside area which enables them to exercise and develop their skills. They become increasingly aware of the way activity affects their bodies and know when they need a drink or a rest. Children's emotional well being is fostered by the childminder helping children to express their feelings in a very open and understanding environment. Accurate recording of accidents and medication further enhances children's welfare.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a welcoming environment where children are relaxed, safe and secure. The ground floor is appropriately arranged and organised to meet children's needs. Furniture is arranged to enable children to develop their play and move around freely. They are encouraged to be independent and to choose from the play resources on offer, all of which are clean and conform to safety standards. Many are stored in easily accessible boxes and children happily and readily help themselves. The childminder monitors and supervises children's choices, ensuring that all toys provided are safe and age appropriate.

Children are well protected and their welfare promoted. Priority is given to ensuring children's personal safety, both inside and outside the home, and to helping them understand how to keep themselves safe. There is sufficient and appropriate safety equipment in place, such as stair gates, smoke detectors and car seats. The childminder has addressed potential hazards within the home and minimised risks. Children are aware of the evacuation procedures and that when out on visits or trips,

they stay close together and within view at all times. The childminder has a firm understanding of child protection and the procedures to follow, in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder. Those who are anxious or unsure are helped to settle by the childminder who is highly sensitive towards their individual needs. They achieve well because she plans and provides a wide range of interesting and worthwhile activities, some reflecting society's diversity. Children are made to feel part of the family and develop strong relationships with the childminder and her children. They play co-operatively together and share resources when appropriate. The childminder provides a range of art and craft materials and children enjoy making things both individually and together as a group, both with and without her support.

Children develop their independence through being able to freely choose from a good range of indoor and outdoor activities. They have easy access to toys and books and enjoy sharing these with the childminder and other children. Regular visits to the local park also ensure that they have the opportunity to develop physically in a more open environment.

Children respond warmly to the childminder and readily approach her for support. Babies and young children make progress because she fully involves herself in their play and learning. They are relaxed, happy and very comfortable in her care as she interacts well with them and they receive a great deal of individual attention. The use of the Birth to three matters framework to adapt activities such as playing with natural materials would further promote younger children's learning.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder is sensitive to children's needs and personalities and they are responding to her warmly and appropriately. She demonstrates a sound awareness of equal opportunities and special educational needs. For example, she is discouraging gender stereotyping by enabling all children to freely access the range of activities and play materials on offer. This is fostering their self esteem and independence. Children are becoming aware of the wider world through regular outings, discussion and the toys and activities provided.

Children behave well because they are interested in what they are doing and there are sufficient resources and activities for all children. The childminder demonstrates good use of praise and encouragement to help build children's self esteem and manage behaviour. Children have a good role model for behaviour as the childminder speaks politely to them throughout the day. They are caring and happy with one another's company, content and settled.

All children are benefiting from a positive partnership with parents. Initial discussions with the childminder and information forms are enabling parents to identify children's individual needs such as diet, health and preferences. Babies settle well because the childminder works closely with the parents to ensure they follow their home routine. Parents are well informed about their children's experiences, progress and achievements. Continuity and consistent care of children are being positively encouraged.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The children benefit from a well organised environment and day. Space is used well for the benefit of all the children. Children receive good adult support and attention which helps them feel at home and part of the family. The children are supervised appropriately to ensure they are protected from unvetted persons.

The childminder has effective procedures in place to ensure that the welfare of the children is promoted and parents are kept fully informed. All relevant and required documentation is in place and well maintained which contributes to the smooth running of the setting.

The childminder shows a commitment to developing her service through training and is currently enrolled on a Foundation Degree Course in Education and Early Childhood Studies.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection the childminder has an appropriate system for obtaining parent's written permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Children now freely use a more comprehensive range of resources which reflect diversity.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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.
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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):

- further raise children's awareness of good hygiene practice by talking about the benefits of cleaning teeth.
- consider using the Birth to Three Framework to develop the activities on offer for the younger children.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)