



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY217135
Inspection date	24 August 2005
Inspector	Jacqueline West

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 was registered in 2002. She lives with her husband and son aged 14 in the town of Seaham, County Durham. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding one child over 5 years before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The home is clean, warm and welcoming with a good standard of hygiene maintained throughout. Children are learning about personal hygiene as part of the daily routine, for example washing their hands before lunch. The childminder actively manages a balance of meeting parental wishes, and encouraging healthy food options such as fresh fruit and vegetables. Children are encouraged to sit socially at meal times. They confidently ask for drinks when they are thirsty.

The effective implementation of the sickness policy ensures children do not attend if they are unwell. Most of the documentation in relation to health is in place however; parents have not given written consent for emergency medical treatment.

Children enjoy a satisfactory range of activities that contribute to their health including regular walks to the local park and soft play areas.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to move freely as there is adequate space which is well maintained, this reduces the risk of accidents. The childminder is aware of a safe evacuation procedure in the event of a fire however; this is not regularly practised with the children. Children's safety is ensured when on outings, the childminder is aware of the children's individual needs and takes appropriate action, in addition emergency contact numbers are readily available should any concerns arise.

The children are learning to keep themselves safe through positive encouragement from the childminder. Routines such as tidying away toys from the floor encourage children to take responsibility for their own safety. Children have access to a range of resources which are of good quality however; the organisation of them could be further developed to enhance the children opportunity to safely self select.

There are effective procedures in place for the collection of children, ensuring they are well protected. Appropriate documentation contributes to children's safety.

The childminder's current child protection knowledge is satisfactory however; still needs to be improved by obtaining appropriate written documentation and becoming familiar with the content to fully safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled. They relate well to the childminder. Children work well together. They effectively communicate their needs and the childminder responds accordingly.

Children are involved in a range of indoor and outdoor activities including drawing; completing puzzles and imaginary play situations with the farm and cars. Children have the opportunity and are confident to request activities of their choice; they play happily alone or with peers and the childminder assists from a distance. Children are enthusiastic when discussing their favourite activities and outings, they are able to recall on specific events such as going for a walk on the beach.

The childminder has developed an understanding of the child's likes and interests. Overall the range of activities generally aids children's development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning about themselves and the world that they live in which encourages the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. They are taken on regular outings to places of interest within the local community. There is a small variety of resources available to reflect positive images. The children show concern for each other for instance when younger children are present. The childminder's knowledge of individual children fosters a firm feeling of trust and security.

Children are learning right from wrong and are starting to take responsibility for their own actions. The childminder's good understanding of their individual personalities promotes effective behaviour management. The children show good manners for instance when asking for drinks.

Partnership with parents is satisfactory. Parental involvement is of benefit to the continuity of care the children receive. Children's activities and routines are regularly discussed with the parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are safe and free from harm because the childminder has a reasonable knowledge of the National Standards and is mostly successful in interpreting them. The majority of the documentation is complete to a satisfactory standard however one area is still to be addressed.

The routine is flexible enabling children the opportunity to participate in a range of experiences both indoors and out. The resources are well organised into individual toy boxes and stored in a cupboard however, not easily accessible to children.

Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder was asked to carry out a number of recommendations to ensure a

safe environment for children including, improving fire safety precautions, having accident records readily available, the correct completion of the daily register, obtaining an appropriate first aid certificate, developing knowledge of child protection and providing a range of resources to promote equality of opportunity. The majority has been addressed generally well however, issues in relation to child protection need to be developed further.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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):

- obtain a copy of the guidance booklet for child protection 'What To Do If Your Worried A Child Is Being Abused' and ensure appropriate contact numbers are readily available
- obtain written parental permission to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment
- review the organisation and accessibility of resources so that children have the opportunity to self select.

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