



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	506937
Inspection date	17 May 2005
Inspector	Hilary, Jane Purvis

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 has been registered since 1989. Her home is situated in the centre of Hexham, Northumberland, close to local amenities.

The ground floor of the premises is used for childminding including the lounge, kitchen/dining room and the rear yard area. The childminder lives with her husband and on occasions her three adult children when they are home from university.

The family have one dog.

The childminder takes children on outings to child orientated facilities.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. There are currently seven children on the roll, attending on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, clean premises which is light and in a good decorative order. The space available is well organised and allows a wide variety of activities to be successfully provided, enabling children of all ages and abilities to have independent access.

Children's health and well being is promoted through a daily routine which encompasses consistent high standards of hygiene awareness. Meals and snacks, which are provided for the children are healthy and part of a balanced diet which incorporates each child's dietary needs, preferences and parental wishes. Children are encouraged through play to be aware of the need to eat a healthy diet and enjoy mealtimes as a social occasion. Fresh fruit as snacks is included on a daily basis.

Children physically develop through regular use of local child orientated facilities and access to an outdoor area in which they have use of large play equipment.

Parents are kept updated of their child's development and care on a daily basis when they collect their children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to safely access the equipment available through a well organised environment which includes all toys stored at a low level in suitable storage boxes.

The play space available has been assessed for child safety and appropriate precautions put in place to reduce the risk to the minded children, access to the kitchen is restricted to when the childminder is present. The premises are kept secure and children are prevented from leaving the premises unsupervised. Older children are encouraged to develop a degree of independence with the childminder monitoring to ensure safety.

On outings child safety continues to be promoted with the children being encouraged to be aware of road safety and using suitable crossings appropriately.

The childminder protects the children in her care well and has attended child protection training to ensure that she is up to date with required procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's natural curiosity to explore and investigate is built upon by the childminder providing support and encouragement. Children's early communication skills are developed through the childminder's use of expressive and enthusiastic language.

Children interact confidently with each other and the childminder, who displays a detailed knowledge of each child and their individual needs.

Children's creativity is developed through the use of fun musical activities and the creating of different instruments from household objects. Children's general development is supported and encouraged through a varied and interesting daily routine, which incorporates outings, activities in the home and a solid routine of care which is beneficial to the children cared for.

The childminder has a fundamental knowledge of the care of babies and young children. The childminder is keen to enhance her practice for younger children by accessing information on the Birth to Three matters framework.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individuality is acknowledged and enjoyed. Children learn about the community that they live in through regular visits to child orientated facilities.

Children develop a greater understanding of the world around them through the proactive attitude of the childminder who actively seeks information and incorporates relevant and appropriate activities into the daily routine.

Children gain an awareness of appropriate behaviour and the effect their behaviour has on others through discussion and a good role model provided by the childminder.

The childminder develops good relationships with the parents of the minded children keeping them informed of their child's development and care on a daily basis. Children's self esteem is developed and encouraged through the childminder actively valuing each child's contribution.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The premises is effectively organised to enable a variety of activities to be successfully provided. Although toys are rotated to retain children's interest they remain confident in what provision is available and freely access the resources.

Children benefit and develop in confidence from the good organisation of the environment and a well thought out daily routine.

The standard of care is enhanced by the childminder's positive attitude to training and her regular attendance on relevant courses. All required documentation is maintained and retained in an organised and confidential manner, however the registration certificate needs to be displayed so that parents can easily see it.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no improvements highlighted at the last inspection.

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.

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):

- enhance knowledge and understanding of the care of children aged birth to three years.
- ensure that the certificate of registration is clearly displayed.

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