

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312641
Inspection date	02 August 2007
Inspector	Pauline Pinnegar

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 February 1999. She lives with her husband and two children who are over 16 years of age. The family live in a house in the Marton area of Middlesbrough. The house is situated within easy distance of local amenities including schools and shops. The ground floor and upstairs bathroom are used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The family has one pet dog and a cat.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for nine children aged from two to 10 years old. Children are cared for on a part-time basis. The childminder takes and collects children from her local school. She is a member of the Middlesbrough Childminding Network Group and her local Quality Assurance Group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming home. The childminder makes sure she complies with any specific requirements for their care so that their health needs are met. Children's health is given priority and they are effectively taken care of if they become ill or have an accident because the childminder follows clear procedures. For example, her own effective hygiene practices contributes to children's good health. Children are protected from the risk of cross-infection because the childminder encourages that they either use their own hand towel or a suitable disposable wipe. Children wash their hands throughout their daily routines, supported with explanations about why they must do this to remove the germs.

The provision of healthy, freshly prepared meals and snacks ensures that children are well nourished. Drinks of water are offered and each child is provided with their own cup. The childminder negotiates arrangements for snacks, meals and drinks carefully. She takes account of parents' wishes to ensure that individual dietary needs are met. Children become aware of how healthy foods are good for them through everyday conversations. Meal times are relaxed and sociable events, with everyone sitting together sharing news and conversation.

Children enjoy worthwhile daily physical activity and benefit from being in the fresh air. For example, they are encouraged to walk each day in the local area. They develop their confidence and physical skills through using a range of resources in the garden and larger equipment in the local parks. Young children have planned, routine sleep times which are discussed with parents in order to meet their continually changing needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and very child friendly home, where potential hazards are stored well out of their reach and all the necessary safety equipment is in place. The childminder organises space and resources well to reduce the risk of accidents, and actively promote children's independence. She carefully considers the age range present when planning different activities and assesses risks effectively to promote children's safety and enjoyment indoors. The garden is enclosed and totally suitable for young children to play safely. Children access an excellent range of resources that are all very clean and well maintained. All is arranged at children's level, which successfully promotes their independence because they can help themselves freely and easily from low shelves and storage boxes.

The emergency evacuation procedure is practised with children on a regular basis to raise their awareness. Children are kept very safe on outings because the childminder makes sure that they are either securely strapped into a pushchair or can walk safely holding on to the pushchair. Older children are gaining a growing awareness of road safety as they walk to school. The childminder helps children develop a suitable awareness of road safety as she talks to them about the importance of stopping to look for cars.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a clear understanding of her role in child protection. She feels able to put appropriate procedures into practice if necessary. The childminder places strong emphasis on the importance of close supervision in keeping children

safe and children are encouraged to share any worries with her. Her sensitive awareness of children's needs and feelings helps her to ensure children are effectively protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children develop high levels of confidence and self-esteem due to the extremely warm and caring attention they receive from the childminder. She is calm and continually good humoured in her approach, constantly providing praise and encouragement, which helps children feel valued. They show plenty of interest in all that they do. For example, children are absolutely absorbed in creating expressive faces with the sticker books. They have great fun creating different features and colouring in using coloured pens. They are very proud of their achievements. The childminder displays their work using a laminated machine at the children's request.

Children develop a strong sense of self-esteem. Their behaviour is good and is sensitively supported by the childminder's example. They begin to understand right and wrong. Their artwork is valued and beautifully displayed by the childminder, so that everyone can enjoy it. Younger children's home experiences are built on well by the childminder. She respects their independent choices and her caring, supportive interactions encourage confident play. The childminder is sensitive to individual needs and considers ways to enrich children's experiences. She is beginning to link the 'Birth to three matters' framework to her practice.

Children independently plan and develop their own play. Imaginary role play is very popular with all the children, encouraging the older and younger ones to play together very cooperatively. They love dressing up pretending to be the 'baker' and other characters. Children have lots of opportunity to be creative as they make cards, draw pictures and paint. They make model pigs using papier-mâché and explore, baking dough and creating their own pictures. They bake buns and participate in other simple cookery activities. Children love stories and enjoy a wide range of different books. They learn to explore mathematics in everyday activities, and sounds with magnetic letters. Children's language and interest in their surroundings develops very well because the childminder involves herself totally in children's activities. As children ask questions, she responds immediately, giving clear explanations which help children understand and extend their knowledge further.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the setting and participate fully in all activities because the childminder values and respects their individuality. Children are beginning to learn about the wider world through sensitive discussions with the childminder, who also acts as a positive role model. They are valued and respected as individuals, which helps to give them a sense of belonging. Their understanding of the local community is growing because the childminder takes them out in the local area, for example, they go to the park and the library. The childminder ensures that children are developing their awareness of other people and the world around them by providing them with books and resources that show positive images of disability and the diversity of society. Although there are no children on roll with learning difficulties or disabilities, the childminder demonstrates a satisfactory awareness of how she would promote their welfare.

Children learn to share and cooperate as they play. They have a good understanding of the 'house rules'. They are helped to feel good about themselves as the childminder praises them and gives lots of warm encouragement. This reinforces caring behaviour so that children learn to be kind and helpful to each other. The childminder considers individual needs very well and plans activities to enable everyone to be involved. The children help to keep the play area tidy by putting toys away when they have finished with them.

There are good working relationships with the parents. The childminder understands the benefits of working in partnership. Information is shared through regular verbal exchanges as the children arrive and depart each day. The childminder has developed a written complaints procedure for parents. However, it does not clearly include the contact details of the regulator. The childminder is aware of the regulations regarding the recording of complaints, although she has not developed a system to record complaints in line with changes to regulations as yet.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are supported by flexible and child-led planning. The childminder is enthusiastic and displays a commitment towards ongoing training to extend her childminding practice. This is helping her to plan enjoyable experiences for children and safeguard their welfare. Space and resources are well organised to meet the children's needs successfully.

Records required for the safe and effective management of the provision are maintained in line with regulations. This means that the welfare, care and learning of the children is promoted. The majority of the records are kept appropriately. However, the record of children's attendance is not kept accurately. Although checks are in process for one household member, these have not been completed fully. The childminder understands requirements with regard to reaching agreements with parents, so that their wishes are clearly understood. She shares information daily with parents about children's activities and care needs, enabling consistency of care. She has developed a range of written policies to support her professional practice.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to provide resources to reflect equal opportunities, obtain written permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and ensure that Ofsted is informed of any significant changes.

Children now access a suitable range of resources that reflect positive images of diversity. Ofsted is kept up to date of all significant changes and written consent is now in place from parents to seek emergency treatment or advice. This contributes to partnerships with parents and the overall effective organisation of the setting.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004, 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 keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaint record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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):

- develop the complaints procedure in line with changes to regulations and include clear contact details of the regulator
- ensure the record of children's attendance is maintained accurately
- continue to complete the full vetting procedure for all household members over the age of 16 years.

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