

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY278915
Inspection date	30 August 2007
Inspector	Lynne Pope
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 2004. She lives with her husband in Dipton, County Durham. The whole of the ground floor, upstairs bathroom and small front bedroom of the childminder's house are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years all day, one child over five years and two children over eight years before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group and takes children to the local library and park. The family has a dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well presented, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. For example, the childminder gives consistent guidance as they are reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet. The childminder has a good awareness of special dietary requirements through consultation with parents. Healthy options are discussed with parents who provide meals for children.

The childminder follows effective procedures to protect children when they are sick. Relevant records are in place for accidents and the administration of medication. Children enjoy a wide range of activities that contribute to their good health. Physical activities help them to learn control of their bodies. They move freely, enabling them to explore the childminding environment. The door is open into the garden so that they can decide to play out when they like. Outings are made into the local environment. For example, they visit the park and activity centre. They are able to rest or be active according to their needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment. The home is made welcoming with resources easily accessible in the cupboard in the dining room, therefore developing children's independence as they make their own choices. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe, stimulating and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder identifies and minimises risks around the home. This means that children are able to move around safely and freely. They are kept safe on outings through the procedures the childminder has in place. Children learn about how to keep themselves safe through discussions and games with the childminder, for example, about when walking by the road, sitting in the car or being by a river. The childminder has a basic knowledge of the procedures to follow if she has a child protection concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and very secure in the stable environment, enjoying an excellent relationship between themselves and the childminder. The childminder uses good procedures to find out about what children can do through a staged introduction to herself and her home. Children experience a good mixture of activities that contribute to their development both inside and outside the home. For example, they use their imagination well as they play with the dolls house and play figures. The tool kit inspires them to fix things around the home. Concentrated effort is spent drawing pictures and attempting to write letters. They are supported well by the childminder who sits with them and joins in with their play.

The childminder has attended courses based on the 'Birth to three matters'. She has implemented what she has learned into the activities children carry out. A record is maintained for each child of their development based on the outcomes for the 'Birth to three matters'. Children's work is kept, photographs taken and anecdotes about what they did to achieve the outcome recorded.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities to promote a positive view of the wider world, increasing children's understanding of others. They learn about the local community as they socialise with other children at community groups. Visits are made to the park and farm. Resources reflect positive images for children of disability, religion, culture and gender roles. They are used in everyday play. A good relationship is developed between the childminder and children. Consistent boundaries are set and good behaviour encouraged through praise, with the result that children learn to manage their own behaviour.

A satisfactory relationship has been established between the childminder, parents and carers. Children's individual needs are discussed with parents and carers before they attend. This enables her to offer the child appropriate support. Daily feedback is given which enhances their child's development. Parents and carers are made aware that they can contact Ofsted if they have any concerns about the childcare. However, the childminder has not made the parents aware that they can put concerns in writing to herself or that they can enquire if there have been any complaints. This is a requirement of registration.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides. Children's care is enhanced by satisfactory organisation. Flexible daily routines allow them to experience a range of activities in the home and wider community. They feel at home and at ease in the organised environment. They have easy access to resources which means that they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. They are well supported by the childminder.

The childminder has updated her knowledge of current childcare practices and first aid by attending training courses. The childminder uses most policies and procedures adequately to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. However, parents and carers have not been informed about how to make a written complaint or enquire if there have been any complaints made, in line with current legislation. This is a requirement of registration. All relevant records and consents are in place.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection one recommendation was raised. The childminder has ensured that resources reflect positive images for children that they can use in their everyday play to develop their awareness, for example, books, jigsaws and dressing up clothes.

Complaints since the last inspection

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.

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.

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 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):

- raise awareness of child protection procedures further
- inform parents about how to make a complaint in line with current legislation and that they can enquire if there have been any complaints.

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