

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	550092
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 September 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Judith Ann Hodgson
<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 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 2001. She lives with her husband and their eleven-year-old daughter in Chester-le-Street. The whole of the downstairs and the first floor bathroom are used for childminding and there is an enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for one child under eight and one child over eight on a part time basis.

The childminder collects children from the local primary school. The family has a pet dog.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, well-maintained home where they are beginning to develop an awareness of personal care. The childminder reminds the children to wash their hands at appropriate times. The children share a towel to dry their hands so are at risk of cross-contamination. The childminder has a current first aid qualification and has written

permission from parents to seek emergency medical treatment or advice, therefore children are protected in the event of an emergency. Children benefit from continuity of care as the childminder maintains suitable records of accidents and medication. These are signed by parents to acknowledge the entry. Parents are contacted and children collected should they become ill which ensures that they are suitably cared for and remaining children are not at risk of cross-infection.

Children's nutritional needs are suitably met as the childminder provides the children with hot, home cooked, meat-based dinners and snacks of fruit. Agreement with parents ensures that individual children's nutritional needs are met. Children learn about healthy eating routines as they are involved in choosing the food menus and help to prepare the table at mealtimes. Children have free access to drinks so stay suitably hydrated. The children stay healthy and enjoy regular physical activity as they use the enclosed back garden and are taken on walks to and from school and to the football field.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are suitably protected and kept safe within this home. Children access an appropriate range of toys and equipment. These are organised accessibly on low-level shelves and in toy boxes in the dining room which enable the children to choose their activities. These are all suitable for the ages and developmental stages of the children. The childminder understands the need to maintain children's safety within and outside the home. Children are closely supervised on outings and a range of safety equipment is used in the home, for example, safety socket covers and cupboard locks. The childminder's public liability insurance is not current and the fire blanket in the kitchen is not easily accessible, so children's safety is compromised. However, the childminder has devised a fire evacuation plan and has practised this with the children which means they will be better protected in the event of a fire.

Children's overall well-being is safeguarded because the childminder understands child protection procedures and how to implement these when necessary. She knows how to recognise child abuse and neglect and has the contact details of who to consult should there be a cause for concern.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, settled and involved in a suitable range of activities. Children are very relaxed and approach the childminder with confidence. They make decisions for themselves concerning the toys or materials they wish to use throughout the week. They complete a day board at the beginning of the week where they make decisions on their activities and plan for each day. For example, they negotiate with the childminder to bake, watch films and use dough on different days. Children have a positive relationship with the childminder and benefit from her involvement in their play.

There is a wide range of board games available for the children to choose, and craft activities available which encourage children to cut, stick and draw. Outdoors, children are encouraged to explore and use their imagination as they play with dolls and gloop. The childminder provides the children with play materials on request and children are able to choose from the games and toys stored in the dining room. The children played happily, dancing and singing for each other and reading with the childminder, who encourages them to learn familiar words. Children are

taken for walks to the local football field and become familiar with their local surroundings as they walk to and from school.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed into the childminder's home. She takes steps to get to know the children, chatting to them and their parents about their likes and dislikes. She knows and understands their individual needs and preferences with regard to such things as foods and favourite activities. As a result, children develop a sense of belonging. The childminder has limited knowledge of equal opportunities issues and there are very few resources reflecting positive images of a wider world, which means that children's developing awareness is limited. She has some experience of caring for children with disabilities.

The children are generally well behaved. The childminder's consistent manner has a positive impact on the children's behaviour and any inappropriate behaviour is dealt with in a developmentally appropriate way. Children's needs are met through an effective relationship with parents. This has been fostered through exchange of information at the beginning of care and ongoing daily discussions. Suitable records are kept to enhance the childminder's practice.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder's home is suitably organised to support play opportunities. Children move freely from the living room to the dining room and conservatory, choosing activities from the storage shelves and boxes. The childminder organises her routine to be able to spend the majority of her time with the children. This supports their care and development.

The relevant documentation is in place to support the children's well-being, for example, there are accident and medication books and a daily register showing the hours of attendance. However, there are multiple entries on one page of the accident and medication books which means that confidentiality is compromised. Other records are stored appropriately to maintain confidentiality and are available for inspection.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure additional activities and resources were provided to promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Little progress has been made which means that children's awareness of these issues is limited. The childminder was also asked to obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children and maintain a record of all medicine administered. Permission is now obtained and records are in place which safeguard children's wellbeing.

### **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):

- improve hand drying facilities for children to help prevent cross contamination
- ensure that the fire blanket is made easily accessible
- ensure that public liability insurance is kept up to date
- increase personal knowledge of equal opportunities issues to provide resources and activities to increase children's awareness of difference and a wider world
- maintain all children's records to ensure confidentiality.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)