

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312176
Inspection date	27 November 2007
Inspector	Angela Cuffe
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 was registered in 1990. She lives with her husband and two mature children in Dane Bank, Denton. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five all day and six children on a part time basis. The childminder walks to the local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has two cats and a rabbit.

The childminder is a member of an approved childminding network but is not currently in receipt of funding for nursery education.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from the risk of illness and infection through set routines and a clear written sickness policy. The policy is shown to parents and includes useful information on common childhood illnesses. The childminder promotes good hygiene practices with the children. They enjoy and understand simple routines, such as washing their hands at appropriate times of the day. Children's health is further protected through the childminder's clear understanding of health needs and emergency procedures. Appropriate records of accident and medication details are maintained, which safeguards the welfare of children.

Children take part in regular play opportunities at the park and other local play areas. They benefit from fresh air as they play in the garden with a suitable range of outdoor toys. Children enjoy learning to climb as they develop physical skills and confidence. They rest and sleep according to their needs.

Arrangements for food and drink are made in consultation with parents to meet individual requirements. Sample menus are displayed, which show healthy meal and snack options. Children are well hydrated and develop independence as they have ready access to drinks. The childminder encourages children to try new tastes and textures and meets their dietary requirements well.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled as they are cared for in a warm, welcoming and homely environment. Space is used effectively to plan for varied activities. The main play area is bright and attractive to children, with toys and equipment displayed and stored within easy reach. Children are familiar with the environment and move around with confidence. They make choices as they access the age-appropriate and well maintained toys and books.

Children are safe in the home as the childminder takes effective measures to minimise most hazards and prevent accidents. She demonstrates a clear awareness of safety issues and has a written emergency evacuation plan. Fire drills are practised on a regular basis, which enhances children's understanding of fire safety procedures. The childminder makes routine risk assessments as children develop, which ensures that areas continue to be safe. However, sharp knives are stored within easy reach of young children which poses a hazard.

Children's welfare is safeguarded through the childminder's clear understanding of child protection issues. A written policy is in place which is in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. Parents are asked to sign a statement which is used to inform them of the procedures and the childminder's responsibilities to protect children. The childminder attends appropriate training to ensure that her knowledge is up-to-date.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are comfortable and relaxed in the childminder's home. The sharing of experiences as they talk and laugh together helps develop warm and caring relationships. Children are given appropriate attention as the childminder is fully aware of their individual needs. She gives them

support when needed as she sits on the floor brushing a child's hair and reading stories from a book. The childminder watches as the children happily play together. They are motivated and interested in the broad range of challenging age appropriate toys. The children have unlimited access to the garden for outdoor play and are taken out on a regular basis where they socialise with other children.

Children develop independence as they freely make choices about how they wish to spend their time. They enjoy each other's company and form strong friendships. They enjoy the planned activities and then sit on the childminder's knee for comfort. They confidently talk about their favourite toys and books and interact well with the childminder as she talks cheerfully to them. The children are playing with a play house and toy animals. The baby is on the floor exploring the stimulating toys and environment. The childminder talks about going out later to collect children from school and a possible trip to the park.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children value each other as individuals. They learn about different cultures through the activities provided and the equipment available to them. They are made aware of the wider world through regular outings and information in books. Children express their needs naturally to enable the childminder to gain a better understanding and build routines. As a consequence, the children are happy and settled in the childminder's care.

Good behaviour, children's efforts and achievements are acknowledged, recognised and praised appropriately. Consequently children are confident and have high self esteem. The childminder speaks positively to the children. She supports and helps them to understand simple house rules, such as sharing and taking turns. As a result, the children behave well. They interact with each other in a positive manner. They understand their boundaries and respond well to discussions and occasional reminders from the childminder. Information about the children's progress is shared with the parents verbally on a daily basis.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by the childminder's organisation. The daily routine offers a good balance of adult led activities, free play and quiet times. The childminder incorporates 'Birth to three' in her planning to ensure the needs of babies and young children are appropriately met. She also ensures that children have sufficient space in order to play in comfort. She organises play materials to promote children's independence and encourage choices about their play and learning. Children are at home in the comfortable and welcoming surroundings and have settled in well.

All required records and documentation are in place, as well as written policies and procedures that are in line with current legislation. This contributes to the continuity of care of the children. The childminder keeps First aid training up to date and attends relevant training on a regular basis as well as a level three qualification which the childminder is currently undertaking. As a result, children's safety, security and the childminder's partnership with parents is enhanced.

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 agreed to ensure parents have a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint, including the address and telephone of the regulator. The childminder also agreed to improve the safety of sleeping children and obtain written permission to have supervised access to pets.

The childminder has a complaints procedure and a complaints record. Children sleeping in the house are checked regularly and the childminder also has written permission from parents to enable children to have supervised access to pets. These improvements ensure the safety of the children at all times.

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 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):

- ensure safe storage of sharp knives.

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