

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	313699
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Julie Morrison
<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 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 1995. She lives with her husband and their three children aged 10, 14 and 17 years in a house in Lanchester. The house is close to schools, pre-schools, parks and local amenities. The childminder is registered to care for six children and currently has seven children under the age of eight and two children over the age of eight on roll. Children attend on a part time basis.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding as well as the first floor bathroom and small bedroom. There is an enclosed garden available for outside play. The family has two pet dogs and birds housed in an outdoor aviary.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely well cared for in a warm, welcoming family home where children's health is given top priority. The childminder has excellent procedures in place to promote children's health and well-being. For example, information written by the children is displayed in the

bathroom, reminding them to wash their hands. Singing songs, such as 'if you're happy and you know it wash your hands', ensures that even the youngest children learn about hygiene through fun and inventive ways. Further procedures such as brushing teeth after lunch and hand washing, form an integral part of the children's routine and supports their learning about good hygiene. The use of individual paper towels further reduces the risk of cross-infection and illness. The childminder is extremely proactive in ensuring that she is aware of children's routines from home, as a result she is able to support toilet training and provide consistency for the children. Comprehensive policies, excellent relationships with parents and relevant training ensure individual children are cared for well should they become ill, reducing the risk of cross-infection.

Children flourish as they access extensive opportunities for physical play that contribute to their good health and helps them to gain increasing control over their bodies. For example, outdoor play is a regular feature of their care as they play in the garden and enjoy walks to the park where they take bats and balls and enjoy playing games. Children have excellent supervised access to a large range of play equipment, such as trampolines, slides and ride-on equipment. The children enjoy dancing and singing to favourite pieces of music and trips to local soft play facilities. Such activities promote children's physical development and teach children that exercise is fun.

Children's well-being is enriched through accessing a healthy diet. Most meals are provided by parents and the childminder ensures that they have lots of snacks of fruit and constant access to drinks to remain hydrated. The children take part in imaginative food related activities, such as making fruit drinks and scrap books full of pictures of their favourite healthy foods. They go to the shops to identify healthy foods and the childminder encourages them to try new fruits and flavours, such as lychees. Such activities help children to develop a healthy approach to food and eating.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children play and learn in an extremely safe and secure environment where they are supervised closely by the childminder at all times. Detailed and comprehensive risk assessments have been carried out to minimise any potential risks and the childminder does daily visual checks of the areas which are used for childminding. This ensures that children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. Excellent guidance from the childminder ensures that children are encouraged to be aware of safety during their daily routines and even the youngest of children proudly explains, 'I am tidying up'. This encourages children to take responsibility for their safety and well-being. Children's knowledge about personal safety is further encouraged by gentle reminders from the childminder not to climb as they may hurt themselves, road safety activities and regular fire drill practises. For example, the children visit local safety events and following this, make a colourful road safety display which highlights what they have learned.

Children choose from an excellent range of resources that are well organised to allow them safe and independent access. Toys are in excellent condition and this is promoted through the childminder's vigilant cleaning and checking routines. The childminder has attended relevant child protection training and as a result has an excellent understanding of child protection issues. There is a comprehensive written child protection policy in place and the childminder has a thorough understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and procedures to follow should she have any concerns. This ensures children are very well protected.

The childminder holds a first aid certificate which means that children receive immediate appropriate attention if required. Children's accident and medication records are meticulously recorded and a record of all visitors to the childminder's home is kept. Children are extremely well protected during outings as the childminder implements highly effective safety practices. For example, she undertakes detailed risk assessments and carries all emergency contact details with her as well as appropriate equipment such as sun cream, hats and drinks. Young children are securely strapped into pushchairs or wear reins, while older children are developing independence as they are allowed to walk a safe distance ahead. All written consents are in place, ensuring that children's welfare is safeguarded.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle very well at the childminder's home and are confident and happy. The childminder has clear written plans in place and provides a very good range of stimulating and interesting activities for the children both inside and outside the home. For example, the children visit local museums and go to fire stations to learn about the fire brigade. Children also benefit from opportunities to socialise with each other and their peers through regular visits to soft play areas and toddler groups. The childminder is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and is using this to support her activities, however, children's records are not linked to the framework to record progress and development.

Children enjoy a range of activities which contribute to their imaginative and creative play. For example, they dress up and pretend to be making lunch. They make pictures with stickers and enjoying drawing. The childminder interacts well with the children, she sits and laughs with them and they confidently approach her with questions or for cuddles. Enthusiastically involved in their play, the childminder sings songs with the children using glove puppets to act out well-known rhymes. Children are confident, engaging with visitors and offering them snacks, this helps children to build effective social skills and promotes self-esteem. Children benefit from strong and affectionate relationships with the childminder, the room displays photographs of them promoting a sense of belonging and helping children to feel valued.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder is highly committed to equal opportunities and this is evident throughout her practice. Her confident approach to equal opportunities actively contributes to children's positive attitudes to the wider community. This is complemented with access to a wide selection of resources including books, dolls and jigsaws. Children celebrate a wide variety of festivals, such as Christmas and St George's day as well as Eid, Diwali and the Chinese New Year. For example, the children visit a Chinese supermarket and make a scrap book of the food they tried. The childminder is highly innovative at making learning fun and relevant for the children, for example, they learn French words and try French food to support a school trip to France.

The childminder has an extremely positive attitude towards caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She has attended relevant training and is committed to working with relevant organisations and parents to ensure children's care and development. Children's care is significantly enhanced as the childminder ensures that she obtains detailed information from parents regarding their children. This ensures utmost priority is given to meeting children's individual care and development needs.

Relationships with parents are promoted and developed extremely well. Prospective parents receive a highly informative pack which provides information about the setting and the childminder's policies and procedures. All relevant information including a complaints procedure and planning is displayed for parents to see. Highly comprehensive daily diaries and regular newsletters ensure that parents remain up to date about their child's day and actively promote continuity of care. The childminder ensures that children and parents are happy with the level of care that children receive through the use of questionnaires. Parents are highly positive about the childminder, reporting that she 'goes out of her way to ensure that the day is full of joy and meets all the child's needs'. Parents are greatly reassured by how happy the children are in her care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder has an extremely positive attitude towards childcare and this is given utmost priority. This is reflected in her highly motivated commitment to ongoing personal development, which contributes to the very high stand of care provided, for example, inclusion training and National Vocational Qualification level 3 in childminding. The childminder is exemplary in the work she has done to secure her qualifications, ensuring that all work is done to the highest of standards. Regular monitoring and self evaluation ensure that she is constantly reviewing and developing her practice.

Solid and very productive partnership with parents is exemplified by highly effective contingency plans that are in place to deal with unexpected circumstances. This ensures that children receive continuous and reliable care from other registered childminders. The daily routine is displayed for parents to see and exceedingly well balanced to ensure that children receive a mixture of quiet and busy times.

A wealth of detailed policies and procedures are in place and used effectively to support the practice and care of the children the childminder cares for. Exceptionally well maintained systems are in place to record attendance, medication administration and accidents. These are all meticulously kept along with an abundance of supporting documents stored in children's individual files, for example, pictures, art work and photographs. All information for parents is clearly displayed, for example, registration certificate and public liability insurance.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous inspection a recommendation was raised to carry out written risk assessments for the rear garden. The childminder has made good progress in this, and has clear written risk assessments in place to minimise all potential hazards in the garden.

## **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 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):

- further develop children's records to show individual children's progression and development.

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)