

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY275834
Inspection date	31 October 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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since December 2003. She lives with her husband and three children aged 14 years, eight years and 21 months. They live in the Fishburn area of County Durham. The house is situated within easy distance of local amenities. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. There are currently three children on roll under five years and one child over eight years. Children are cared for on both a full time and part time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained home. They are helped to stay healthy because the childminder has a detailed sickness policy, which protects herself and other children attending. Children are encouraged to adopt sound hygiene procedures, for example, they wash their hands before meals. However, the childminder does not always follow sound hygiene procedures in relation to nappy changing. She changes nappies on her lap and these arrangements do not effectively protect children from the risk of cross-infection. The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of the requirements for administering first aid and medication. She takes responsibility for ensuring that all documents are kept appropriately.

Children enjoy outdoor activities in the fresh air. They are able to play on the bikes and ride along toys in the garden and enjoy bouncing on the trampoline. They have regular exercise when they go for walks to the local shops. The childminder plans regular visits to local play parks, where the children enjoy using the large play equipment; visits to the soft play centre are popular. Children also love dancing to music indoors. Younger children are able to rest and be active according to their individual needs.

Arrangements for snacks, meals and drinks are negotiated carefully with parents, so that children's individual dietary needs are met appropriately. The childminder makes sure children have regular drinks to keep them sufficiently hydrated throughout the day. She provides a nutritionally balanced diet that includes fresh fruit, to ensure children are well nourished.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming, child-friendly setting. The childminder uses suitable safety equipment, such as cupboard locks, socket covers and smoke detectors, which contribute towards keeping children safe. She has identified a clear evacuation route. However, the procedure does not include provision for regular fire drills with children, to raise their awareness of what to do in an emergency. Children learn strategies for keeping themselves safe. For example, they are encouraged to apply suitable road safety drills when out walking. Toys and resources are stored accessibly in the designated play room. The childminder ensures toys and equipment meet relevant safety standards and are suitable for children's recommended age ranges. Children enjoy exploring their environment and are developing confidence and independence through being able to move around freely and make personal choices.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection issues and is aware of her responsibility to protect the welfare of the child which means that children are kept safe from possible abuse or neglect. She is familiar with the procedures approved by the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are content in the caring and homely environment. The childminder talks with parents to find out what children enjoy doing and tries to ensure activities are child-led. Children can choose from a varied range of toys and use initiative to plan their own play. Children have good

relationships with the childminder and approach her confidently and with affection. The childminder knows the children well and as a result of this, children feel safe and secure. She talks to the children with enthusiasm and they respond positively with lots of conversation. Children receive frequent praise and encouragement, which makes them feel good about themselves. Children begin to understand right and wrong and good behaviour is sensitively supported by the childminder.

Children benefit from a suitable range of learning opportunities. They can enjoy imaginary play indoors where they cook, dress up and play with the dolls. Creative and exploratory play, like sand, glue, paint and play dough, is routinely offered as a play choice. The childminder plans some activities outdoors and in the local community to vary children's experiences. Children recently collected leaves when out walking. They used the leaves to make collage trees. Children's communication skills are developing well as a result of the childminder talking and listening to them. She encourages them to talk about what they are doing and sensitively supports their language development. The childminder is interested in what the children do and say and becomes involved in their play as they play with jigsaws and the play people. She talks about colours as they play with the various resources. The childminder works alongside the children, encouraging them throughout their play and enhancing their social skills and learning. As a result, children enjoy their experiences and they are forming good relationships with adults and peers. Children are settled and happy in the childminder's care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are welcomed into the setting and participate fully in all activities. The childminder values and respects their individuality which helps to give them a sense of belonging. Children are beginning to learn about the wider world through sensitive discussions with the childminder who also acts as a positive role model. Some resources, such as books and dolls, help to raise children's awareness of diversity. Local outings helps to raise children's awareness of the community in which they live. Although there are no children on roll with learning difficulties or disabilities, the childminder demonstrates a sound awareness of how she would promote their welfare.

The childminder uses positive strategies for managing behaviour. Children are encouraged to share, take turns and respect each other. The childminder is a positive role model. Rules are clear and the childminder reinforces children's understanding consistently in daily routines, so that they begin to take responsibility for own their own behaviour.

The childminder works successfully with parents to meet children's individual needs. For example, routines for young children are consistent with their home life. Parents receive daily verbal feedback about their child, this ensures that the children's ongoing needs are met and the continuity of care. Although there is a complaints procedure in place for parents, it does not include the full contact details for Ofsted.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are kept safe and their welfare is effectively safeguarded by the childminder's understanding of most of the required policies and procedures. However, the record of children's attendance is not maintained accurately. Agreements reached with parents help the childminder to have an understanding of their wishes for their child's care. The childminder shares

information on a daily basis with parents about children's activities and care needs. The registration certificate is displayed for parents, along with the childminder's written policies.

The home environment is organised well to provide child-friendly play space. Children are able to move around freely and gain independence within daily routines. This results in children remaining settled and feeling secure in their surroundings. Children's health and welfare are promoted by flexible planning, which supports their individual needs. However, the childminder did not inform Ofsted following the birth of her third child. This is a breach of mandatory requirements in regulation, and ultimately affects the conditions of her registration.

Overall, the provision does not meet 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: make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint; ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice and complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children.

The childminder has completed an appropriate first aid course which contributes to keeping children healthy and safe. A written statement with regard to the procedure to be followed if parents have complaints is now in place, but this does not include full contact details of the regulator. Children now access a satisfactory range of resources which reflect positive images of diversity.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure Ofsted is informed of any significant events.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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