

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY288149
<b>Inspection date</b>	16 October 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Ann Coggin
<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 was registered in July 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged nine and five in the Bishop Cuthbert area of Hartlepool. The whole 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 five children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five part time and one child over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends local toddler groups.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Hartlepool Childminding Network.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

The childminder has implemented clear and efficient hygiene routines and good standards of cleanliness are maintained throughout the home to protect and promote children's health. They learn the importance of good personal hygiene from an early age through well planned daily routines. Procedures such as the use of individual paper towels after hand washing, individual face cloths and regular cleaning of toys safeguards children from the risk of cross infection. Systems are in place for addressing children's health needs. The exclusion of children who are unwell prevents the spread of infection and the recording of accidents and the administering of medication are managed effectively. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate and maintains a well stocked first aid box.

Children benefit from being offered varied and nutritious meals and snacks. The childminder works closely with parents to provide food and drink which appeals to children and meets their individual dietary requirements. Children enjoy fresh fruit and vegetables daily and they are encouraged to try new foods. Children drink diluted juice and water throughout the day from their own easily accessible cups. Children's independence is promoted by them having a choice of what they would like to eat and drink at snack time.

Children benefit from a varied range of activities that contribute to their physical health and development. Activities within the home, regular access to the garden and walks to the play park and to school provides children with opportunities to develop control and coordination of their bodies. They enjoy moving to music and throwing and kicking balls as well as using a range of large and small equipment such as wheeled toys, swings and climbing frame.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder organises her home effectively to accommodate children's play. Her use of space ensures children are able to move freely and safely between rooms. Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and well organised environment where the childminder places a high priority on safety. Hazards are clearly identified, minimised and checked and safety equipment such as, socket covers, stair gates and cupboard locks are in place. The children are beginning to understand and learn about keeping themselves safe both indoors and outside the home. They know not to climb on the furniture and not to run indoors. Older children walk within agreed boundaries on outings and understand the need to be vigilant when crossing roads.

Children independently select activities from a wealth of safe, well maintained, good quality toys and resources which meet safety standards. They are well organised in child height containers to encourage independent access. The childminder carefully supervises the children's choice of toys to ensure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder has written policies and procedures in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and protected. For example, the collection of children, lost children, transporting children and an emergency action plan all of which are shared with parents. The childminder's secure understanding of child protection issues and her responsibilities in reporting concerns protects children from harm.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care, routines have been established to promote children's sense of security and develop their confidence. They play confidently with a very good range of toys and resources. Children experience an extensive range of exciting and stimulating activities which contribute to their development inside and outside the home and this promotes their overall learning and development. Children's self esteem is developing as a result of the childminder encouraging and praising them and valuing what they do. The close and caring relationship between children and childminder contributes to the children's sense of belonging.

The childminder has a very good knowledge of child development which means children's emotional, social, physical and intellectual capabilities are promoted. Activities are well planned but are flexible allowing children to make choices. Positive and warm relationships have been established and children are happy, relaxed and settled and this increases their sense of trust and promotes their self-confidence. The childminder is interested in the children and becomes actively involved in their play for example playing peek-a-boo. Consistent support and meaningful praise encourages children to become increasingly independent. Children independently choose from a good range of well maintained stimulating resources which encourages and motivates their learning and development. Communication skills are well supported through positive interactions.

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

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the childminder's home and participate fully in all activities, as they are valued and respected as individuals. Children's needs are well met and their development supported with the childminder acknowledging young children's non-verbal cues and following routines enabling them to feel confident in accepting new experiences. Children are gaining a clear and positive view of the wider world and have good opportunities to develop positive attitudes towards others through accessing a range of resources reflecting diversity.

The childminder has a good written behaviour management policy and children are very well behaved, polite and well mannered. The childminder effectively supports children and encourages them to share and take turns. There are clear and consistent boundaries in place which ensures children know what is expected of them. The use of positive strategies for managing behaviour helps children learn to understand right from wrong and promotes their self-esteem.

The childminder offers good settling procedures for new children and explains to parents her policies and procedures ensuring the child's transition from home to childminder is smooth. Children benefit from the positive relationships between childminder and parents. Parents views about their children's needs are actively sought before the childminding arrangement commences and verbal information is shared on a daily basis. This enables the childminder to meet each child's individual needs and contributes towards the continuity of care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder creates a homely and welcoming atmosphere in which children are relaxed and at ease. Children have space to move independently and freely. Well organised regularly rotated

storage boxes, low level shelving and toys set out prior to the children's arrival enables them to self select and choose toys and resources they wish to play with. The childminder ensures children's individual needs are met in the event of an emergency by identifying alternative childminders known to both the children and parents. Children benefit from the childminder's commitment to updating her knowledge through training, such as, food hygiene, first aid and healthy eating for childminders.

All documentation is available for inspection and children's records are stored appropriately. The childminder displays her registration certificate and displays the poster providing parents with the contact details for Ofsted. The childminder has a complaints log, however this does not respect confidentiality.

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

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve knowledge and understanding of medication recording requirements. All consents are in place and the recording of all medicines administered promotes children's health.

### **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):

- develop the complaints log to ensure confidentiality is respected.

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)