

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY347074
<b>Inspection date</b>	29 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Janet Fairhurst
<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 April 2007. She lives with her husband and two children aged two and 21 years, in the Consett area of County Durham. Local amenities and public transport systems are within walking distance. The whole of the ground floor areas are used for childminding purposes. There is an enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently caring for seven children. The childminder takes and collects children from the local schools.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, very clean home where they learn about keeping healthy. They develop an understanding of good hygiene practices through consistent daily routines. Younger children's independence is well promoted with regard to their personal care, as they make good attempts to visit the toilet, helped by the use of a low step and an appropriate toilet.

seat. Clear and effective procedures and practices, protect children from illness and minimise the risk of cross infection. First aid training is kept up to date, which enables the childminder to act in children's best interests to safeguard their health.

Children are involved in a wide variety of physical play both indoors and outdoors. They visit soft play centres to promote their large motor skills and enjoy vigorous outdoor play, during their visits to the local park and during their woodland walks. This enables children to use up energy and enjoy fresh air, which contributes to their good health.

Children benefit from healthy, nutritious meals and snacks, which takes into account dietary requirements and parents' wishes. Children make choices about their snacks and they have access to drinking water and fresh fruit at all times. Mealtimes are a relaxed social occasion, where children enjoy their food and through discussions, they learn about healthy eating. A daily menu is displayed to help inform parents of the type of meals they will be having that day.

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

The provision is good.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised, by the effective organisation of space and the use of safety equipment. The childminder explains safety rules to the children, so as to help the children to develop an understanding of danger and to preserve their own safety. For example, she explains why it is important to tidy toys away, in case someone slips on them. Potentially harmful items, such as cleaning fluids, sharp utensils and medication, are stored beyond children's reach. Safety equipment is in place to help reduce risks, for example, a stair gate, smoke detectors and a fire blanket. Fire evacuation procedures are recorded and practised with children on a regular basis, which further ensures children's overall safety.

Children have ample space to play within the childminder's home. They are able to select from a very good range of resources which meets safety standards. Their independence and self-help skills are promoted well, as they access the toys easily. The childminder monitors and supervises the children's choice of toys carefully, to make sure that they are safe and appropriate for their ages and stages of development.

Children are well protected. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding about child protection procedures and has all relevant information and contact details. She has reference material on child protection, which provides helpful information on recognising concerns and keeping children safe.

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

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a relaxed homely environment, which helps them to feel secure. Warm and caring relationships are formed between the children and childminder. This contributes to the children's sense of trust and helps them develop a strong sense of self. The childminder organises the consistent routines throughout the day, so that children have times for rest and quiet time, as well as active games. This helps to ensure children are secure and know what to expect. Children's language and social skills are promoted well by the childminder. She talks and listens consistently to the children, asking them questions to make them think, fostering children's confidence and understanding.

The children are taken out within their local environment, where they have opportunities for different learning experiences and where they socialise with other children and adults. Babies benefit from routines which are consistent with their experiences at home. Through this approach, the childminder helps young children to move between home and the new setting and in turn, meets their emotional needs. The nurturing environment and the childminder's sensitive, caring nature helps children feel totally secure in her care. Children freely climb on to the childminder's knee to give her a hug. Young children develop a positive sense of self, as their wishes and requests are valued and acted upon. Although the childminder has a good awareness of children's development, she has not fully developed systems to successfully monitor and track children's individual progress.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a good range of resources to promote a positive view of the wider world, such as play figures, puzzles, dressing up clothes and books. This increases children's understanding of others. They learn about the local community, as they have regular walks in the environment. Children show a sense of belonging in the setting, settling well and making choices about what they do. They are included in a wide variety of experiences, encouraging a sense of achievement and enjoyment.

Children behave well in response to the clear expectations of the childminder. Her calm and sensitive approach promotes respectful relationships. Children are learning to act responsibly, as they are encouraged to tidy away toys after use. Excellent use of praise and encouragement, fosters children's self confidence. Children's creative work is displayed, which demonstrates how their efforts are valued. If children wish they can take home their work, so they can share their experiences with parents. This enhances their self esteem and helps them to feel good about themselves.

Good relationships have been established between the childminder, parents and carers. Children are settled in over a period of time, ensuring that they settle really well. Time is taken prior to admission, to ensure that each child's needs, interests and abilities are identified. Written policies and procedures are used well, to inform the parents about the service. A daily written record of children's personal care routines are given to the parents of children under one year. Relevant information is displayed at the entrance of the home, keeping parents well informed.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in an environment, which fosters their independence and provides them with opportunities to develop. They have a familiar daily routine, which provides them with security and confidence. The childminder organises the premises well. The layout helps to maximise play opportunities and allows good levels of supervision to take place, without overly encroaching on children's play. As a result, children are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Children feel at home and benefit greatly, from a good amount of individual support, which fosters their confidence and learning. The sharing of fun experiences with the childminder, ensures they enjoy a thoroughly good time.

The childminder has a good understanding of the need to maintain records. All the required paperwork is organised and used well, to promote the welfare of the children. Registers and records meet all regulatory requirements and are easily available.

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

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

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

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.

Since registration, 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 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 a system to track and monitor children's ongoing progress.

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)