

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 309936 |
| Inspection date | 08 October 2007 |
| Inspector | Karen Ling |
| 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 satisfactory. 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 1993. She lives with her husband in the village of Annitsford on the boundary of North Tyneside and Northumberland. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding along with the bathroom on the first floor. 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 one child under five all day on a part time basis, and two children over five before and after school. One child was present during the inspection. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group which she manages.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are helped to stay healthy because they are consistently encouraged to follow good hygiene routines with the childminder's support. The attendance of children who are unwell is

discouraged. Children can rest and sleep according to their needs because the childminder thoughtfully accommodates individual routines into the day. They benefit from regular exercise and fresh air through planned activities such as visits to the soft play centre and walks to the park. Very young children regularly attend a parent and toddler group, managed by the childminder. This gives them good opportunities to socialize with children of their own age and experience a varied range of quiet and lively activities. Babies are very happy and listen carefully to the childminder's voice, for example as she interacts with them verbally during nappy changing routines. Children have their health and dietary needs met because the childminder works well with parents. They enjoy a varied selection of snacks and fruit and babies are helped to develop independent eating skills in a sensitive manner.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe indoor environment. They access a range of toys and resources which are well maintained and suitable for their ages and stages of development. Tables and chairs are available for older children which provide space for them to relax or complete activities such as drawing and colouring. The childminder is mindful to keep the environment safe and puts into place additional measures as required once babies become mobile. For example, the stairs are made inaccessible. Fire precaution recommendations are adhered to in the main. However, no smoke alarm is fitted at first floor level. The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge and awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect. Her awareness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures including the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against the childminder are not as sound.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's enjoyment and achievements are good because the childminder establishes positive and caring relationships and meets individual needs. Older children are able to exercise a degree of independence as they choose from their toys and resources. They can relax after school if they wish or choose activities, such as games or craft activities. Babies are very well cared for and as a result they are happy and settled. They play with a selection of plastic and wooden toys which stimulate their senses effectively. Their interest is held as they explore the different materials. The childminder interacts with them very well, encouraging language development, smiles, gestures and movement. Physical skills and dexterity are fostered appropriately. For example, toys are placed out of reach so that babies are encouraged to reach for toys, manipulate soft and hard shapes of different sizes and use their muscles to roll over. Praise and encouragement from the childminder is never far away.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel relaxed and content with the childminder because she is friendly and pays attention to their individual needs. She knows the children well and regular verbal dialogue with parents helps to keep her informed about any changes that occur. Children, including babies are praised for their efforts and they respond positively by smiling and repeating their actions. The regular excursions to the mother and toddler group helps to build their social skills and self confidence as they engage in play with other young children. All toys and resources are made available to

boys and girls and the childminder is mindful to help children resolve any differences amicably. The childminder has discussed the methods she uses to manage unacceptable behaviour. Time out from an activity is used after children have received an initial warning. As yet the childminder does not have a written procedure or format for dealing with complaints which are in line with the amendments that were introduced in October 2005.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is very experienced and suitably organised. The layout of the rooms used for childminding purposes are appropriate to the needs of the children enabling them to move about freely and safely. Children of all ages are made welcome at her home and she caters for each child's likes and dislikes. The majority of the necessary documentation is in place and written parental permission has been obtained where necessary. Although she is mindful to keep a record of which days children attend and when they are at her home, records do not reflect accurate times of when children are in her care outside of the home. For example, until they are safely received by school staff or parents at school. Overall organisation is sound and reflects the childminder's calm and confident manner in which she cares for children. 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 was asked to increase the range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder demonstrated satisfactory practices of how she encourages children to be considerate of each other's differences, for example through story book themes and play situations. All toys are available for girls and boys.

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 satisfactory. 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 knowledge and awareness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures including the procedures to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against the childminder
- ensure there is a working smoke alarm on every level of the house
- put into place the procedure and format for recording complaints and make parents aware of it
- ensure accurate times are recorded of when children are in the care of the childminder.

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