

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	103196
Inspection date	27 February 2008
Inspector	Julie Wright
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 has been registered since 1995. She lives with her partner and seven children aged thirteen, eleven, eight, six, four, two years and a baby of six months in Newquay. The house is within close distance of amenities such as leisure facilities and beaches. The areas used for childminding include the lounge, play room and downstairs toilet. Extension work is in progress and children do not currently access this area. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for one child at any one time. There are currently three children on roll who attend on a part time basis. The childminder attends local carer and toddler groups and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop independent skills and learn about everyday hygiene routines. For example, young children begin to show competence in their personal care. Suitable policies and procedures

promote children's health and protect them from the risk of illness and infection. The childminder carries first aid materials on outings and accurately maintains accident and medication details.

Children benefit from physical play opportunities at the park, toddler groups and in the garden. They use age-appropriate equipment which promotes their skills and coordination. The childminder has sound understanding of different stages and supports children's development.

Children's dietary requirements are met in the setting. The childminder provides a suitable variety of meals and snacks for children. They have access to regular drinks and enjoy sitting together at mealtimes. Children develop social skills and benefit from the arrangements made.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are familiar with the environment and move around with confidence. Since the last inspection building work has begun on an extension to the premises. At present children use the play room, lounge and garden for their activities. These areas are safe and suitable for childminding purposes. Toys and equipment are available to suit children aged from birth to over eight years. Resources are suitably maintained and rotated to promote children's interest.

Children are cared for in secure premises. The garden is enclosed and the childminder restricts access to areas where work is in progress. The childminder talks to children about emergency evacuation procedures and on occasion practises the drill. Reasonable measures are in place to prevent accidents and minimise hazards. Consent for outings and suitable car seats are in place, however, confirmation of appropriate car insurance is required to assure safety.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of the procedures to protect them. She is aware of signs for concern and has current contact numbers for relevant agencies. The childminder provides a policy to inform parents of her responsibilities to safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and secure in the care of the childminder. They have warm relationships with the family and enjoy their time in the setting. A suitable range of activities promote children's interest and overall development. Children enjoy frequent creative play opportunities, using craft materials to make collages. They like cutting, sticking and making animal masks. After school the children enjoy outdoor play at the park, in the field and in the garden.

The childminder interacts well with the children, encouraging learning in play and everyday activities. For example, children help to hang clothes out, counting pegs and naming colours. The childminder prompts letter and number recognition during games. Children enjoy stories and develop concentration as they listen to the end. Music and story tapes also provide opportunities for children to develop language and listening skills. Children play independently as they confidently select imaginative play resources. They show interest in the toys and make sound developmental progress.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are met in the care of the childminder. Regular discussions and appropriate record keeping ensure consistent care. Daily routines are suitably planned to accommodate the children's care requirements. The childminder has a satisfactory awareness of equal opportunities and encourages children to develop positive attitudes.

Children respond well to the childminder's calm and consistent approach in managing behaviour. They learn to share and take turns as they play. Children are cooperative and have positive relationships with each other. They understand the expectations of behaviour and behave well.

The childminder promotes positive working relationships with parents. A suitable introductory procedure helps children to settle and feel secure. The childminder discusses policies on care and informs parents of children's activities. Long term arrangements develop and parents value the care given.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled and stimulated in the care of the childminder. She plans suitable routines and organises her time and space appropriately to meet the needs of the children. Flexible part time care arrangements are agreed with parents to suit their requirements. Since the last inspection the childminder has had two babies and changes to the premises are in process. She ensures suitability of adult persons in the household, although confirmation of a current check is required.

The childminder continues to develop her practice and attends training. She is currently working towards a recognised level 3 childcare qualification. Courses completed since the last inspection include Managing Behaviour, Food Hygiene, Baby Signing and First Aid. However, the first aid certificate is not available for inspection. Records and documentation are maintained in suitable order, which contribute to the continuity of care 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 ensure that evidence of public liability insurance is kept on the premises and is made available for inspection. She was also asked to make sure that unfinished building areas in the playroom are made safe or inaccessible to children. Since then the childminder has ensured availability of the insurance certificate. She ensures that children do not have access to areas where building is in progress. These actions result in improvements to the welfare of the children.

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):

- provide confirmation of a current Criminal Records Bureau check for persons over the age of 16 years in the household
- ensure that a current first aid certificate is available for inspection at all times
- ensure that the car insurance includes business use for the transportation of children.

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