

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | EY367665     |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 20 June 2008 |
| <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 February 2008. She lives with her partner and four year old son in the Hardwick area of Stockton-on-Tees. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children aged 18 months part time.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder has written policies and procedures and has implemented clear and efficient hygiene routines. 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 washing of hands before meals and after toileting and regular cleaning of toys, safeguard 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. All parental consents are in place.

The childminder provides children with a rich and varied diet. Meals and snacks are nutritious and well balanced and include foods from other countries. Mealtimes are social occasions and all children are encouraged to develop independence skills in feeding themselves and making choices. They enjoy snacks of fresh fruit and meals which are home-cooked using fresh ingredients. The childminder discusses dietary requirements with parents and any specific needs are recorded and catered for.

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 visits to the play parks provide children with opportunities to develop control and coordination of their bodies as they use a range of large and small equipment, such as wheeled toys, swings and slides. They enjoy moving to music.

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

The provision is good.

There are written policies and procedures in place for ensuring children's safety at all times. 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, a stair gate, door guards and cupboard locks, is in place. This allows children to move around safely, freely and independently. Procedures to ensure the safe evacuation in the event of an emergency are well considered and practised regularly with the children and a written record is maintained. All appropriate and required documentation, such as medication records, accident records and parental consents, is in place and up to date.

The childminder understands the need for a good balance between safe limits and independence. Children independently select activities from a wealth of safe, well-maintained, good quality toys and resources which meet safety standards. They are regularly checked by the childminder and are well organised to encourage independent access. The childminder carefully supervises the children's choice of toys to ensure that 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 or missing children and risk assessments, all of which are shared with parents. The childminder's secure understanding of child protection issues and her responsibilities in reporting concerns protect 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 a range of exciting and stimulating activities which contribute to their development inside and outside the home, and this promotes

their overall learning. For example, they enjoy baking, painting and dancing to music. 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 good knowledge of child development, which means children's emotional, social, physical and intellectual capabilities are promoted. Activities are 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, looking at books together, playing picture dominoes and developing their imagination as they play with role play resources, such as a microwave, iron and ironing board. Consistent support and meaningful praise encourage children to become increasingly independent. Children independently choose from a good range of well-maintained stimulating resources which encourage and motivate their learning and development. Communication skills are well supported through positive interactions.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a written equal opportunities policy, behaviour management policy and partnership with parents statement, which are available to parents. 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 each child's individuality and following routines, enabling them to feel confident in accepting new experiences. They relate well to each other and are learning to socialise with other children through regular attendance at toddler groups. Children are gaining an understanding of the world around them as they have good opportunities to visit parks to feed the animals and the library and are developing positive attitudes towards others through accessing a range of resources reflecting diversity.

Children are very well behaved and polite. The childminder effectively supports children and encourages them to share and take turns and play together harmoniously. The good behaviour management strategy, together with a range of stimulating experiences, has a positive impact on children's behaviour. There are clear and consistent boundaries in place, which ensures that 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 children's self-esteem.

The good partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well-being. Parents' views about their children's needs are actively sought before the childminding arrangement commences. Information both verbally and written is shared on a daily basis, with parents enabling the childminder to meet each child's individual needs and to contribute towards the continuity of care. A daily diary is used as a two-way communication tool. Parents receive a welcome pack at the time of placement which includes the childminder's policies and procedures.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children feel settled, relaxed and at home with the childminder. Her good organisational skills have been used to create a child-friendly and well-organised environment, ensuring children are confident and secure in themselves and with the childminder. They can initiate and develop

their own play and learning. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. The childminder organises her time well to effectively meet the needs of the children. The childminder shows commitment towards her own personal development by attending relevant training courses and workshops, such as Food Safety in Catering, safeguarding children and Introduction to the Early Years Foundation Stage.

All documentation is available for inspection and children's records are stored appropriately. The childminder displays her registration certificate and the poster providing parents with the contact details for Ofsted is available to parents. The childminder has a complaints procedure which includes the address and telephone of Ofsted; however, a complaints log is not in place.

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**

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 procedure to include a record of complaints.

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)