



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	311817
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 December 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Sharon Greener

<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 1997. She lives with her husband in the Harlow Green area of Gateshead. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom located on the first floor of the childminder's house are used for childminding, and there is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time. She is currently minding 2 children under 8-years-old. The children attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks children to and from school. She is a member of the Gateshead childminder network.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

The childminding environment is very well maintained and hygiene standards are very high. Children adopt good personal hygiene practices, such as, hand washing upon arrival from school, before eating and after visiting the toilet. This practice, along with the childminder's clear understanding of related policies and procedures, help to safeguard the children's comfort and well-being. She also has procedures for sick children and the administration of medication.

Catering arrangements are flexible to meet the wishes of the parents and children's specific dietary requirements and preferences. The childminder promotes a healthy eating programme. A sample menu is shared with parents. Children are encouraged to eat a variety of nutritious foods and they are beginning to show an awareness of the benefits of a good diet. They know that fresh fruit, vegetables and milk are good for them. Older children are able to self select fresh fruit at will. Relevant information about children's individual health related needs is obtained from parents. These are frequently updated.

Children have regular opportunities to play outdoors and benefit from fresh air and exercise. They have access to a suitable range of equipment and outdoor activities, which enable them to develop and enhance their physical skills. The childminder ensures children receive lots of praise to help build their confidence and encourage their physical development.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder makes effective use of procedures which help her to minimise or eliminate risks to the children. She completes a daily visual risk assessment of the resources, equipment and the childminding areas. This is ongoing throughout childminding hours. This helps her to safeguard children's welfare and enables them to move freely whilst under her close supervision.

Resources and equipment are very clean and very well maintained. The childminder explains safety rules clearly to the children, so as to help them develop an understanding of danger, and to preserve their personal safety. For example, she discusses the dangers of electricity with them when looking at Christmas lights and decorations. Appropriate equipment is in place to help reduce risks and promote children's safety, such as socket covers, a safety gate, smoke detectors and a fire blanket. For example, the childminder ensures that hazardous items like cleaning fluids are securely stored beyond child reach. Children are gently reminded of safety rules, such as, to be mindful of each others personal space when dancing. This helps them to preserve their own well-being and that of others. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection matters.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very relaxed and at ease within the childminding environment. They build close relationships with the childminder and respond very positively to her. The childminder is aware of, and responsive to their individual needs. For example, their favourite activities and foods they like and dislike. Children are inquisitive and well motivated. They initiate conversation; readily asking questions and have an interest in the resources available to them.

The childminder recognises and acknowledges children's achievements and abilities. They receive ample praise. Consequently, their confidence and self-esteem levels are high. Children benefit from easy access to a good selection of age appropriate activities and resources, which enhance and support their overall development. Their language, literacy and numeric skills are well supported through a variety of resources and the childminder's ability to engage them in purposeful conversation. They enjoy outdoor play, are regularly taken on visits to places of interest and show an emerging awareness of their local environment and the wider world.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a satisfactory awareness of special needs and equal opportunity. A suitable selection of resources to aid in the promotion of equal opportunity and to raise children's awareness of diversity is provided. However, the childminder needs to further develop her understanding of equal opportunity to enable her to convey her policy more effectively to others.

She has a good awareness of children's individual needs and responds accordingly to meet those needs. Age appropriate behaviour management strategies are implemented very well and with consistency. The children respond positively to this, and their behaviour is very good. They show good self-confidence and are particularly well at ease within the childminding environment. Children are very well supported and encouraged to make choices and develop their independence as appropriate to their age and ability. This is shown in how they attend to their own toileting needs and pour their own juice from a jug.

Good relationships are fostered with parents. The childminder discusses her childminding policies, procedures and other general information with them during the induction process. Some written policy statements are shared with them. However, the child protection statement needs to identify Social Services as the lead agency. The registration and first aid certificates are clearly displayed for parents information. The childminder works with parents to meet children's needs; by collecting children from school. Parents are kept very well informed of their child's progress and daily activities, through regular verbal feedback.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend. The majority of the required documentation is in place, and is very well organised and maintained. Policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the children's welfare. The childminder is aware of the recent changes to the complaints procedure, but needs to put in place a system for managing and recording details of complaints. She ensures that an appropriate first-aid certificate is held; enabling her to administer first aid treatment to minded children, should this be necessary.

Children are very relaxed and at ease within the childminding environment. They move freely from room to room, whilst under her close supervision. Children have access to a good range of resources and activities. They are taken on frequent outings and have regular opportunities for outdoor play and exercise. Parents are kept very well informed of policies and procedures, day-to-day activities and their child's progress. They are encouraged to keep the childminder up to date with relevant information, which may impact upon the care of their child. This enables her to continue to meet their evolving individual needs.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the time of the last inspection, the childminder was asked to obtain and read the recommended child protection literature, so as to further extend her understanding, and to develop record keeping systems. The childminder has obtained and read child protection guidance literature and consent, in relation to transporting children. This helps to improve the care and safety of the children.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted, 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.

## **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.
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<b>WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?</b>
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### **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):

- ensure a clearly defined procedure for managing and recording details of complaints in put in place
- consider amending the child protection statement to identify clearly that it would be the Social Services Department the childminder would contact should she have any concerns of a child protection nature
- consider further developing knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)