



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	311638
Inspection date	28 November 2005
Inspector	Lynne Pope

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 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 1995. She lives with her husband and two children aged 11-years-old and 16-years-old in the Wickham area of Newcastle. The whole of the ground floor of the childminders house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time and is currently minding 3 children under 5-years-old all day and 1 child over 5-years-old before and after school. She cares for 4 children over the age of 8-years-old before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take

and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group and takes children to the local library and park. The childminder has a dog

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well presented, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. For example, the childminder gives consistent guidance as they are reminded to wash their hands when using the bathroom. Young children learn through the example that is set. The childminder has a good awareness of special dietary requirements through consultation with parents. Children learn and benefit from a healthy diet. They select which fruit they would like at snack time.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities that contribute to their good health. They benefit from physical activities which help them to learn control of their bodies. They move freely enabling them to explore the childminding environment. Outdoor play is a regular feature of their care as they walk to and from school and play in the back garden with a challenging range of equipment. Regular visits are made to soft play where they learn to manage their bodies. The result is children develop a positive attitude towards exercise. They are able to rest or be active according to their needs. Relevant records are in place for accidents and the administration of medication to protect children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment. The living room is made welcoming with an extensive range of resources stored so that children can independently select their own activities. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe, stimulating and appropriate for their age and stage of development. The childminder identifies and minimises risks around the home. This means that children are able to move around safely and freely. Children learn the importance of keeping safe on outings through the well thought out procedures the childminder has in place. Written consents are in place for outings and use of transport ensuring that children's welfare is safeguarded.

Children are well protected by the childminder who is confident and secure in her knowledge of child protection policies and procedures. She has attended a training course since her last inspection to ensure that her knowledge is up to date and that she knows the correct procedures to follow should she have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has a calm, confident manner when caring for children. Children are happy and settled enjoying an excellent relationship between themselves and the childminder. She uses good procedures to find out about what children can do through a staged introduction to herself and her home. She is responsive to the children's individual needs. For example, she sits on the floor with children, makes eye contact and joins in with their play. Children select their chosen activities with enthusiasm and develop them independently. For example, they build structures with the building blocks. They develop their self esteem, confidence and become independent through the sensitive approach of the childminder with the result that they make good progress. Children are encouraged to understand right from wrong through a sensitive approach appropriate to their age. They receive a lot of positive praise and encouragement which helps to develop their self esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities to promote a positive view of the wider world, increasing children's understanding of others. They learn about the local community visiting the local shops and soft play. They socialise with other children at various community groups. Resources that reflect positive images are limited, which results in missed opportunities for children to learn about different gender roles and religions. 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. A good relationship is developed between the childminder and children. Consistent boundaries are set and good behaviour encouraged through praise with the result that children learn to manage their own behaviour.

A good relationship has been established between the childminder, parents and carers. Policies and procedures are shared prior to the child starting. Children are settled in over a period of time ensuring that they settle really well. The childminder ensures that she discusses children's achievements on a daily basis enhancing their development. A record is not available to record any complaints.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend. Children's care is significantly enhanced by good organisation. The childminder plans ahead possible activities which are flexible based on the children's needs. They feel at home and at ease in the well organised environment. They are free to choose where activities take place. They self select resources with ease, from a broad range. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning as well as being well

supported by the childminder. She uses policies and procedures effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Most relevant records and consents are up to date. However, systems to ensure that Ofsted are kept informed of all significant changes are not fully effective.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection the childminder has extended the range of resources to reflect positive images of culture and disability. Resources that reflect ethnicity and gender have not been put in place to enable children to gain more knowledge about the wider world.

The booklet 'What to do if you are worried a child is being abused' is now available to assist the childminder to follow the correct procedures should she have a concern about a child in her care.

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. There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the 1st April 2004.

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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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):

- ensure that Ofsted are informed of all significant changes or events
- further develop resources to reflect positive images of religion and gender
- ensure that a record is available to record any complaints that are raised.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet <i>Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements</i> which is available from Ofsted's website:
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