



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	309966
Inspection date	01 November 2005
Inspector	Anthea Errington

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 has been registered since 2002 and is registered to care for six children under 8 years including three under 5 years. There are currently four children on roll. She lives with her three adult children. They live in a mid terrace house in Wideopen, a suburb of Newcastle. The house is in walking distance of local amenities such as shops and parks. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and children also have access to the first floor bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

It is a non-smoking household.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health needs are sufficiently met. They learn the importance of personal hygiene, such as washing hands prior to snacks and meals and following their handling of the pet guinea pigs, through consistent guidance and support from the childminder. The childminder provides liquid anti bacterial soap to effectively help protect the children from the spread of infection. Children's safety is protected through the childminder having a valid first aid certificate. Effective documentation is in place to ensure children's health requirements are met including written consent for emergency care and treatment. Children are given sufficient opportunities for physical play and exercise through regular trips to local parks and amenities.

Children are not fully protected from the spread of infection as food preparation and eating surfaces are not always hygienically clean.

Varied and nutritious snacks are provided and the childminder works well with parents to meet each child's individual needs, she complies with dietary requirements taking into account children's individual needs, ensuring children remain healthy. Children's independence and self esteem is encouraged by the childminder as she encourages the children to feed themselves.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a friendly and stimulating environment. The children are secure in the child friendly environment and have sufficient space for free play. They make independent choices from the good range of quality toys and equipment.

The childminder is aware of her responsibilities to keep children safe. Most reasonable steps are taken to ensure children's safety both indoors and outdoors. For example appropriate safety equipment is in place according to the ages and needs of the children attending. This includes socket covers, smoke alarms, kitchen cupboard locks and a fire blanket. However loose electrical cables in the living room are a hazard. A fully secure garden is available for outdoor play.

The children's welfare is further safeguarded through the effective documentation that is in place, for example accident and medication records.

The childminder is fully committed to keeping children safe from harm and abuse and appropriate documentation is in place. The childminder is willing to keep records and discuss any concerns she may have with parents which ensures the safety of children in her care is a priority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy themselves and are helped to achieve in the warm and caring environment. Children are content in the childminders care. They confidently play with and make choices from the wide range of good quality toys and equipment which are suitable for various ages and stages of development. They excitedly respond to the activities on offer. For example, they enjoy role play and are able to extend their learning and understanding of real life situations whilst playing with play shops, money and shopping bags.

The childminder makes good use of questioning as she challenges children to understand mathematical concepts such as full and empty. The children are also encouraged to improve their counting skills when using the staircase.

Children's confidence and self esteem is developed further as they are made to feel good about themselves as the childminder frequently provides them with praise and encouragement.

Children's physical and emotional needs are well met as the childminder responds to these in an effective confident and calm manner.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

A reasonable supply of multi cultural toys and equipment promotes children's development and understanding of the wider world and community they live in. Children's individual requirements are well met with the effective use of written records. The childminder is supportive and respectful towards the children, who in turn are polite and well mannered.

Children's behaviour is good and they respond well to the childminders positive approach to encourage good behaviour. For example lots of praise and appropriate rewards are given for good behaviour.

The childminder is fully committed to keeping parents informed of their children's progress and the children benefit from the good relationship she shares with their parents. Parents are kept up to date with their children's progress on a daily basis with the use of daily chats and phone messages and have access to some written policies and procedures.

A written complaints record is kept by the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home and at ease with the childminder. They are secure in the child friendly environment in which they are cared in. Children are confident in their play and supported well by the childminder. They have sufficient space to move

around freely and make independent choices. The children make independent choices from the good range of good quality toys and equipment.

Adult and child ratios are maintained and recorded in the attendance register including arrival and departure times. However this is not always consistently recorded.

Sufficient documentation is in place in line with the national standards and is effectively used and shared with parents to keep them informed.

Overall the provision meets the needs of all children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve safety within her home. She now has a written fire evacuation plan which provides guidance of action to be taken in the event of an emergency. She has also installed working smoke alarms on the ground and first floor and ensures a correctly installed fire blanket is available.

She now obtains written permission for emergency medical treatment for all children cared for and ensures medication records are appropriately recorded.

Daily attendance is now recorded including arrival and departure times, however this is not always consistently recorded.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- improve safety by removing hazardous wires
- ensure attendance register is consistently kept up to date.

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