



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	310119
Inspection date	30 September 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 for approximately 13 years. She minds from her home in the Brunswick Green area of Wideopen, Newcastle. The childminder lives here with her husband and their two older children.

Areas of the house that continue to be used for childminding are the living room and kitchen, located on the ground floor and the bathroom and front bedroom on the first floor. To the rear of the property there is an enclosed garden area for outdoor play.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health needs are well met and they learn the importance of personal hygiene, such as washing their hands before eating snacks and meals, through consistent guidance from the childminder. Sensible precautions are in place to ensure children are protected from the spread of infection, for example, the childminder provides anti-bacterial spray and wipes to prevent cross infection. Children's safety is protected through the childminder having a valid first aid certificate. Most documentation is in place to ensure children's health requirements are met, however consents for emergency medical treatment are not in place.

Children are provided with good opportunities for exercise and fresh air to encourage their physical development, from outdoor play in the garden, park and local walks.

Varied and nutritious snacks and meals are provided and the childminder works well with parents to meet each children's individual needs. The childminder discusses children's individual dietary requirements with parents and provides suitable snacks and meals using this information, ensuring children remain healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very clean, well maintained environment. Well organised space is available for free play; children can move around freely making independent choices from the well organised toys and equipment. Toys and equipment are challenging and suitable for children of various ages and stages of development.

Most reasonable steps are taken to safeguard children within the childminder's home, for example, a fire blanket has been installed correctly and a written safety policy indicates how children are kept safe within her care. However, satisfactory precautions have not been taken to prevent children's access to harmful products stored in kitchen units.

Children's safety and welfare is further protected by the childminders attendance of training, she is fully committed to keeping children safe from harm and abuse and all required documentation is in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

An excellent range of quality toys and equipment is available for children's use. Children play happily and learn to interact and take turns with one another. The children are given time and encouragement to make independent choices from the varied provision of toys and activities. These are challenging and appropriate to their

ages and stages of development.

Children behave well and are confident and enthusiastic and happily participate in activities. For example, the children sing and dance with gusto to a favourite musical DVD they have requested.

The children are very secure with the childminder and she responds to them in a skilled and enthusiastic manner.

Children's physical needs are well met by the provision of a varied programme of outdoor activities including trips to the beach, local parks and soft play centres.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are respected and valued as individuals. They develop a positive attitude to others and gain a good understanding of the wider world and community through the provision of toys and equipment which reflect diversity. For example, resources include books, dressing up clothes, small world toys and craft activities.

Children's individual requirements are well met with the effective use of written records.

Children's behaviour is very good. They are encouraged to understand right from wrong through consistent boundaries set to them, praise and encouragement, explanations and time out if necessary. An effective behaviour management policy is in place.

The childminder has a good working relationship with parents who are fully supportive of the care she provides. They are kept fully informed on a daily basis of their children's progress.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease with the childminder and environment they are cared in. Children are confident in their play and supported well by the childminder. Adult and child ratios are maintained and recorded in the attendance register including arrival and departure times.

Children's health and safety needs are well met as the childminder holds an appropriate qualification in first aid. Children's developmental needs are very well met as the childminder has recently completed training and gained a Level 3 qualification in Childcare and Development.

Most documentation is in place and policies and procedures in line with the national standards are 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 further protect children's safety. A fire blanket is now secured to the wall according to manufacturers instructions.

Children's arrival and departure times are now recorded fully in the attendance register which ensures adult and child ratios are met.

Complaints since the last inspection

Concerns were raised with regard to National Standard 6. An unannounced visit was made to the provision to discuss the concerns. Appropriate actions were agreed to meet the National Standards.

Ofsted are satisfied that the provider remains qualified for registration.

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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 children do not have access to harmful substances in kitchen
- ensure written consent for emergency medical treatment for all children is obtained

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