



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	506940
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 October 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Jim Bostock

<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 first registered in 1989. She lives with her husband and their five children in a detached house in Alnwick. The house is close to local amenities. Minded children have access to the living room, the dining room, the kitchen and cloakroom on the ground floor. The first floor is not used for minding purposes. The enclosed rear garden is used for outdoor activities. She is a member of the Childminding Association.

At the time of inspection there were two minded children on the register.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children receive a balanced and healthy diet including the provision of fruit, snacks and drinks each day. The childminder has a good understanding of the nutritional needs of children and healthy eating issues. Children's individual dietary needs are recorded and reflected in the meals and snacks provided. Parents are asked to provide packed lunches and children benefit from the good communication between childminder and parents about food and drink issues. The childminder fully respects any requests from parents and has a good knowledge of children's individual needs to ensure their health is promoted. Children have easy and constant access to drinking water within the playrooms.

Children's physical development is promoted through regular use of the outdoor area where children have access to large play equipment, such as the slide, and active play. Children develop well from the regular outings, such as walks and visits to interesting places including toddler groups. They play with push and ride toys and interact with others to develop physical control and balance as well as learning to relate well in social situations. Children develop good fine muscle control by having regular play with small objects such as shape sorters, play phones and paint brushes.

Children's health and hygiene is promoted as children wash their hands before eating and after toileting. They have access to clean towels and a liquid soap dispenser to protect them. The childminder has good procedures for nappy changing which ensure children's hygiene and health needs are met. She records accidents and medicine administered and shares this with parents to keep them fully informed and ensure children are protected. However, the way recording is carried out does not ensure full confidentiality of information.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment which is light and in good decorative order. The childminder promotes child safety, within the home and outside, by encouraging children to be aware of danger and keep themselves safe. She teaches children road safety. The childminder takes good precautions to reduce the risk to children and ensures they are closely supervised at all times. Children's safety is promoted within the home by the undertaking of regular risk assessments, good written policies and procedures and a well-organised environment. Emergency cover has been arranged by the childminder to ensure that the children will be cared for appropriately during unforeseen circumstances. The childminder has a good awareness of fire safety and has good written plans for a safe evacuation if needed, but, does not carry out practice evacuations.

The childminder has a good awareness of the issues involved in protecting children

and has undertaken additional child protection training. She has a written child protection policy and a policy for the non collection of children.

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

The provision is good.

Children have a warm and caring relationship with the childminder. They interact confidently with the childminder who shows a detailed understanding of their individual needs. Children are encouraged to be independent with support and guidance in selecting and using the toys and equipment effectively. The childminder interacts very well with children and they respond with enthusiasm and interest. Children's abilities and confidence are developed through effective use of the wide selection of resources available. The childminder has an excellent understanding of the educational development of children putting into practise skills and methods gained from experience and relevant training. Children's self-esteem is developed through the childminder valuing each child's contribution. The childminder has a very good knowledge and experience of the care of babies and very young children and uses Birth to three matters in a general way to help organise the activities and promote children's development.

Children benefit from a planned activity programme which encourages their interest and progress. They enjoy themes about nature and change where they learn about colour, shape, weather and life cycles of plants and animals. Children develop their vocabulary well as they sing songs and learn to recognise letters and words. Parents are fully involved in their children's experiences from daily discussions and planning meetings each term.

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

The provision is good.

Relationships with parents are promoted and developed very well. Parents are kept informed of their child's progress and details of their physical care on a daily basis both verbally and from individual files. Parents are fully informed and consulted about all aspects of the care provided with the childminder discussing all issues and incorporating parents' requests into her service. They provide written information for the childminder about their children and have contracts with her to ensure the relationship is on the correct footing. They are provided with written information in the form of policies and procedures. The childminder has been looking after children from the same family for four years which indicates the level of trust between childminder and parents.

Children learn to be respectful and interact positively as the childminder acts as a good role model. She discusses right and wrong with children to help them develop self control. Children develop self confidence very well because they receive lots of praise and encouragement. They are eager to participate in activities and respond very well to the childminder. They learn to share, relate well to each other and behave well.

Children are cared for as individuals with differences being acknowledged and enjoyed. Children gain a very good understanding of the wider world and their local community through outings and topical visits connected to the theme of activities. There are very good activities, toys and resources related to multicultural play and the childminder has an excellent understanding of equal opportunity and special needs issues. From these children develop an awareness of and positive attitude to difference.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards which underpin the care she provides and ensure children's welfare is protected and their needs are met. She organises her service well so that children are safe and well cared for. Children benefit from the relevant training attended by the childminder which is reflected in the good standard of care provided. The childminder is very experienced and knowledgeable which helps her provide good care for children.

The documentation kept enhances the care provided by being relevant and well organised. The childminder keeps good records which are securely stored to ensure confidentiality. She has written procedures for fire safety and accidents, lost children, complaints and many more, in a folder, so that parents can access them. She has current public liability insurance cover so that children are well protected. She agrees to display her certificate on the wall as is newly required. The childminder has a current first aid qualification so that she can protect children in the event of an accident.

The service meets the needs of the children attending.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable as no recommendations were made at the last inspection.

## **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):

- ensure medicine and accident records are fully confidential.

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)