



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY240376 |
| Inspection date | 02 November 2005 |
| Inspector | Christine Tipple |

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| 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. She lives with her partner in a semi-detached house in a cul-de-sac in Ingleby Barwick. She is close to the local school and she uses her car to access other amenities. The childminder uses the whole of the ground floor for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

She is registered to take a maximum of six children under 8 years old, she currently has eight children on roll of whom four are over 8 years old, all attend on a part time basis.

The family has a dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and of the Stockton Childminding Network. She has a childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and warm environment. The children are supported with positive routines and practices that promote health and hygiene effectively. The children manage their personal care very well and have good access to all relevant facilities, which develops their independence. Children are aware of why they wash their hands, for example, after sticking and gluing and before eating food. The childminder takes all positive steps to prevent the spread of infection this includes when children are ill.

The childminder provides the children with all meals and snacks. The children have a healthy and nutritious variety and menu's are displayed. These include fruit and vegetables and children are encouraged to try different tastes. All dietary needs are recorded appropriately. The children have access to drinks throughout the day and have a choice in what they have.

Children have physical activities both in the home and through additional outings to parks and larger areas to extend their play and use of larger equipment. The children use the garden and there is a range of sit on toys, balls and sand play, children enjoy action songs and music and movement. There is a good selection of tools and creative materials to extend their fine motor skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder has a robust approach to safety with the children both in the home and outside. The children are able to move around freely to access the range of play experiences offered. There is a very good selection of quality toys and resources provided which are effective in meeting the children's various needs. Children have space to move around and make choices in their play safely.

The childminder takes all relevant steps to minimise accidents occurring. There is a detailed written fire evacuation procedure and clear safety details for outings and using the car to transport the children. Older children are aware of the younger ones, and use toys and equipment appropriately.

The childminder has relevant information and a policy on child protection, which ensure the children's welfare and safety is promoted effectively.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are happy and relaxed in their surroundings. They play well and have good access to the play room and other areas. Children make choices and self-select from the good range and balance of resources and toys. The childminder has activity plans in place that follow the seasons, for example, the children collected leaves and conkers, and they made a collage of autumn leaves. Their creative work is displayed or put into each child's own scrapbook to value what they have achieved. Children interact well and the childminder regularly chats with them to encourage their language and thinking skills.

Children are asked about what they are doing and what they want to play with, which supports their learning opportunities very effectively. There are letters and numbers used throughout their play and the children have access to outside facilities to extend their experiences. Children bake on a regular basis and have musical instruments and music tapes. The younger children settle well and this provides them with a sense of belonging through the routines and positive interaction with the childminder, which is supported with appropriate and interesting activities relevant to their needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are valued and respected appropriately. The childminder offers an inclusive approach to the care provided. There is a selection of resources that promote the wider society and encourage children's awareness. Children are happy and settled and confident in their surroundings and with the childminder.

Children's behaviour is managed very well. The children respond appropriately to each other and develop their skills in sharing, taking turns and using manners. The childminder is calm and uses praise and encouragement to promote the children's confidence and self esteem. She recognises the children's level of understanding in assessing how she approaches their behaviour. She provides gentle reminders to the children, such as not to throw toys.

Partnership with parents is very good. There is an excellent range of information provided for parents. This consists of policies and procedures and other details to ensure they are well informed and feel confident in the care their child receives. There is a daily diary for children under 1 year old, and time is made on a daily basis for a chat to ensure any information is shared and discussed. The childminder is flexible in her approach to assist parents in their childcare needs. There are comprehensive contracts in place and these are reviewed as required.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The premises and space provided for the children is well organised and allows

children good access to all resources and activities provided. The childminder is efficient in her approach and this is effective in all areas of her care and provision for the children, which ensures their ongoing wellbeing and safety. She has attended training to extend her knowledge and skills in childcare.

The childminder has a comprehensive selection of detailed policies and procedures that are well presented and shared with parents. Records and documentation are reviewed and maintained as required. However, parental consent is not clearly sought in relation to a medical emergency. Storage and confidentiality of all information is secure. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last care inspection recommended the childminder showed all required information in her daily register and that she extend the range of resources that promote diversity. The childminder has a clear system in place that records the actual times children come and go on a daily basis. She has developed her resources in a variety of areas for the children to access, which reflect and promote diversity effectively for the children.

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 parental permission is requested in seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

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