



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 311802
Inspection date 18 May 2005
Inspector Shirley Peart

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 July 2000. She lives in Low Fell, on the outskirts of Gateshead, with her husband and their 17 year old child. The house is well-served by commercial and local community facilities including shops, a library, schools, green areas and parks.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is an upstairs bathroom available. Children do not have access to the rear gardens or bedrooms. The front garden is available for outside play under supervision.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding one child aged over five years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted well as they follow good hygiene practices. They have access to a very clean and hygienic environment in which to play and eat. The childminder provides a variety of foods and substantial snacks, which ensures that children's dietary needs are met well. Children enjoy their favourite foods. Relevant paperwork is in place to ensure that any accidents and medication are recorded correctly. Although children have not had any accidents due to the childminder's close supervision, the accident book was not appropriate. Children have plenty of fresh air and exercise as they regularly walk to school and play outside.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming, safe and homely environment, where space is used effectively. They can play creatively and eat at an appropriate table area, or play quietly and comfortably in the living room area. Children are safe both inside and outside of the home. Risks are minimised by the effective use of appropriate child safety equipment. Children are also well supervised and the number of children cared for by the childminder is low; therefore, they currently benefit from one-to-one care, and, as a result, they receive sufficient attention and interaction to ensure their safety. Parental consent is obtained for outings. Children have easy access to a variety of good quality, age appropriate toys and equipment which meets their needs well. The childminder promotes children's welfare as she has a satisfactory knowledge about and relevant information on child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and they feel part of the family. They choose their activities independently from a range of good quality toys and materials, such as the creative tray. They design and create their own pictures and cards successfully and their writing is developing well, as the childminder offers encouragement and assistance. Good relationships are in place and natural interaction is apparent. Children engage in lively conversations about themselves, their home and family life, which is encouraged appropriately by the childminder. Children enjoy regular local outings during school holiday periods to interesting places such as the castle keep and walks over the Millennium Bridge to see the Baltic art gallery. Overall the good routine, the one-to-one care and supportive practice of the childminder ensure that

children's creative, physical and language development are fostered very well.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have easy access to books and equipment that help them to learn about diversity and culture. They go on interesting visits and outings, which helps them to learn about the world around them. Some of their creative work is displayed within the home, which enhances their self-esteem. Children's individual needs are well met regarding their play, eating and hygiene routines. Parents are very happy with the care provided. Appropriate information is exchanged verbally and friendly relationships were observed between the parent and the childminder. Children's behaviour is good, they are engrossed in their chosen activities and are fully occupied at all times. The childminder discusses appropriate behaviour management strategies with the parent, to ensure consistency for children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The numbers of children cared for at any one time is low, so that they receive sufficient attention from the childminder. Documentation is well organised and most is up-to-date, which ensures that the information on the welfare of children is maintained. Relevant information is obtained via the children's details forms, consent forms and contracts. They are appropriate so that the expectations of both parties are clear; however there are some minor details that need to be updated. Children follow a suitable, regular routine during the week and they carry out varied activities with the childminder, both inside and outside of the home. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to inform Ofsted as soon as possible of any changes to household members. All household members are recorded with Ofsted and are fully cleared.

Complaints since the last inspection

Concerns were raised against National Standard 1 – Suitable person. A childcare inspector made a visit to discuss the concerns and appropriate actions were agreed. 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 that any accidents can be recorded securely and retained by using an appropriate book
- ensure that the information in the consent forms is up-to-date and that the emergency procedure covers the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment for children.

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