



Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** EY299283  
**Inspection date** 13 January 2006  
**Inspector** Janet Fairhurst

**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](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 satisfactory. 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 2004. She lives with her husband and their two children aged 15 and 17 years old. They live in an established residential area of Gateshead close to shops, schools and a park. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. Outings are undertaken daily as there is no outdoor play area.

The family has a dog and two cats.

The childminder is registered to care for three children at any one time and is

currently minding four children on a full and part-time basis. She takes and collects children from the local school.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a warm, clean and generally well-maintained home. They learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care, and develop good practices as they take part in daily routines; for example, they are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times which helps to develop their self-care skills. The use of liquid soap and paper towels help prevent cross-contamination.

Children are developing their physical skills with a range of suitable activities, both inside and outdoors; for example, they get fresh air and exercise during their walks and visits to the park, which helps them stay fit and healthy. Younger children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs.

The childminder is aware of the need to provide a balanced diet and to encourage children to eat healthy foods and to promote their continued growth and development. Drinks are offered to children on a regular basis.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children follow the childminder's clear boundaries for behaviour management outdoors. For example, they know to stop and listen for vehicles and hold her hand, as this will help to keep them safe. Children can be safely evacuated from the premises in the event of a fire. The childminder maintains a record of the drills to ensure that children remain familiar and confident with the procedure thus ensuring their safety. The childminder has devised emergency care arrangements, which contributes to the continuity of care for the children.

Children have reasonable access to safe resources, and can make some choices and self-select activities with relative ease. However, the range is limited, lacks challenge and is not always appropriate to sustain children's interest.

Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's sound knowledge of child protection. She has a good awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse and, who to contact if concerns are raised.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder organises consistent routines through the day so that children have times for rest and quiet, as well as active games. This helps to ensure that children

are secure and know what to expect. Children have established sound relationships with the childminder so that they feel able to seek reassurance and support, for example, they ask for help when struggling to find a specific toy.

Children are provided with some developmentally appropriate toys and resources. However, there are limited opportunities for stimulating activities and interactions to fully promote their development. Children have too few opportunities to participate in creative activities. This narrows the scope for young children to develop their imagination and creativity.

Although the childminder has a satisfactory awareness of children's development she has not fully extended her activities and plans to promote younger children's progress, for example, by using the Birth to three matters framework. The children are taken out daily within the local environment where they have opportunities for different learning experiences, and where they socialise with other children and adults.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well settled in the childminders home. Space, resources and equipment are organised effectively to meet the children's needs. They are able to take part in the wider community with visits to local venues and other interesting places, such as the train station and discovery museum. Children's specific needs are considered, which ensures that they can participate and feel that they are a part of the group. Children are introduced to right and wrong when reminded not to throw toys, although they are not consistently given an explanation as to what is expected of them and why.

Children benefit from the effective working relationships that the childminder has established with their parents. Verbal information about their welfare, activities and behaviour is exchanged on a daily basis.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Suitable policies and procedures are in place to support the appropriate care of children and to inform parents about the service that is provided. Children's needs and routines are discussed on a daily basis with parents, which contributes to the children's care and learning. Sufficient play-space is available to the children in order for them to play in comfort.

The childminder has a sound understanding of the need to maintain records. The required paperwork is organised appropriately and used well to promote the welfare of the children. Registers and records meet all the regulatory requirements and are easily available.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of children who attend.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to complete first aid training, ensure that relevant documentation was maintained and available for inspection, and to keep a record of any occasion when children are left with emergency cover. Children are now protected by the childminder's practical knowledge of first aid and the maintenance of accurate records and details. She is also aware of the need to maintain accurate records in the event of a child being left with emergency cover.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection Ofsted has received one complaint relating to Standard 1: Suitable Person. The complaint related to the childminder leaving minded children with family members. An Ofsted Inspector carried out an unannounced visit to the provision and an action was raised. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- extend the range of activities, resources and experiences for children, appropriate for their stages of development and based on their individual needs and interest for example, through the use of the Birth to three matters framework
- ensure the behaviour management methods promote children's welfare and provide children with a greater understanding of right and wrong.

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:

