



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 309996 |
| Inspection date | 03 March 2006 |
| Inspector | Andrea, Jane Lockyer |

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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 2000. She lives with her husband and two children aged 12 and 9 years in the Wideopen area of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Public transport systems and local amenities are within walking distance. The whole of the ground floor area is used for childminding purposes. Access to the first floor is restricted to use of the bathroom and front bedroom. There is a suitable rear garden available for outdoor play. There are no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under the age of 8 years, and she is currently caring for three children all on a part time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and receives support and training opportunities from the local Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Each day there are outdoor and indoor activities which help them develop increasing control of their bodies for example, as they learn Irish dancing, join in with music and movement sessions and visit local parks. Garden games and daily trips out to places of interest improve children's physical skills.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming home, where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care throughout their daily routine. The consistent adult support and guidance helps children gain a good understanding of hygiene and a desire to become increasingly independent in their personal care. For example as they help wash toys and equipment and independently access their own toothbrushes, towels and face cloths. Their clear understanding of why they must wash their hands before eating and after visiting the toilet reduces the risk of cross contamination.

Children are beginning to have a good understanding of the benefits of a healthy diet. They are able to make choices from a variety of healthy foods, for example, as they help themselves to a selection of fruit, plan meals for a certain day of the week and help prepare snacks. In depth discussions with parents and comprehensive records, ensure that children are provided with a healthy nutritious diet, which takes account of their individual dietary needs and parental wishes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe home where the risks are identified and minimised. This enables them to move around freely, safely and independently. The childminder gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe both in and out of the home. For example, as they practise fire drills, learn how to use pedestrian crossings and take part in activities about safety in the home. She effectively achieves a good balance between freedom and setting safe limits. This allows children to learn a sense of danger and knowledge about how to protect themselves from harm.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment which meet safety standards. The childminder has a clear understanding of child protection issues to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. She has recently attended child protection training and has improved her practice by developing a child protection procedure which is shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle very well at the childminders home. They are confident, happy and at ease with their surroundings. They achieve well because the childminder has a clear understanding of their developmental stages and how to extend their learning. Children access a broad range of activities and experiences that promote and enhance their individual development and learning skills.

They relate very well to each other and socialise with other children through visits to local amenities. All children spend their time purposefully. They enjoy a wide variety of experiences which contribute to their imaginative, physical, creative, mathematical and pre-writing skills, such as role play, dancing, helping to buy food at the shops, painting, drawing and writing letters. Close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of self.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are developing a positive attitude towards others and gaining a good understanding about the wider world. They take part in a wide variety of activities which increase their awareness of diversity for example, celebrating Divali, having a French day with food tasting, learning Irish dancing and visiting museums. They have access to a good range of toys and resources reflecting positive images of diversity. However, there are limited opportunities for children to develop their awareness of people with disabilities. Children have good opportunities to learn about their local community as they visit the coast, nature reserves, local history museums, parks and shops.

The childminder has realistic expectations of children's behaviour. She implements a range of good strategies to promote positive behaviour that help children learn right from wrong. Children respond positively to the childminder's praise and encouragement. For example, they eagerly help to prepare meals and lay the table, they share toys and help to tidy up. Children are encouraged to interact positively together and respect each other. They behave very well.

Children benefit from good relationships between the childminder and parents. Good verbal and written communication ensures that children's individual needs are met well. Policies, procedures and individual daily diaries ensure that parents are kept well informed about all aspects of the childminding practice and the care, welfare and progress of their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The well organised environment and good daily routines ensure that children are happy and well settled. Good opportunities are made for free play, social interaction,

resting, eating and going out. This means that children are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning.

The childminders good knowledge, skills and positive attitude towards extended training enhances the care of children. Policies and procedures are implemented effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of all children.

All policies, procedures and records are shared with parents which contributes to continuity in the children's care and ensures that their individual needs are well met. Overall the provision meets the needs of all the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection a recommendation was made to extend the range of materials promoting positive images of culture, ethnicity and disability. The childminder has extended the range of resources in respect of culture and ethnicity, which increases children's awareness of diversity. However, there are limited resources available for children to increase their awareness of disability.

Complaints since the last inspection

Concerns were raised with regard to National Standard 1 in July 2004. An unannounced visit was made to the provision to discuss the concerns. An action was raised and has subsequently been met. Ofsted are satisfied that the provider remains qualified for registration.

Concerns were raised with regard to National Standard 6 in June 2005. An unannounced visit was made to the provision to discuss the concerns. Ofsted are satisfied that 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:

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| The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding. |
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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 the fire evacuation plan incorporates the procedure for overnight care
- extend the range of resources to increase children's awareness of people with disabilities.

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