



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	309961
Inspection date	17 July 2006
Inspector	Jim Bostock

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 1994. She lives with her two children in a three bedroom semi-detached house in the residential area of Forest Hall, North Tyneside. The house is close to transport systems with a regular bus service into the city of Newcastle and surrounding areas. Minded children have access to all the ground floor, consisting of a playroom, living-dining room and kitchen, with the bathroom available on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for their use. At the time of inspection there were five children on the childminder's register.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children receive a balanced and healthy diet and learn about healthy eating. For instance, three-year-old children know that raisins and carrots are good for them. The childminder has a good understanding of the nutritional needs of children. Children's individual dietary needs are recorded and reflected in the meals and snacks provided and they benefit from the good communication with parents about food and drink issues. The childminder fully respects any requests from parents concerning children's diet. Children have easy and constant access to drinking water within the playrooms.

Children's health and hygiene is very well promoted through the childminder having undertaken the basic food hygiene course and the carrying out of daily routines, including washing hands before eating and after toileting. Children know why they should wash their hands. They recognise their own towels, which are provided by the childminder to reduce the risk of cross infection. Accidents and medicine administered are recorded appropriately and shared with parents. However, the accident record is not maintained in a way that ensures it is fully confidential.

Children's physical development is promoted through regular use of the outdoor area where they have access to large play equipment and active play. They enjoy playing with sit and ride toys, have a playhouse in the garden and learn about nature through growing plants, such as sunflowers and tomatoes. Children have many outings to interesting places that help them develop well. For instance they visit toddler groups, have storytime at the library, visit art galleries, museums and go to the park for picnics.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe environment which is well maintained and in good decorative order. The childminder promotes child safety very well by taking precautions to reduce any risks to children. For example, she has safety gates, socket covers and cupboard locks in place. Close supervision of children is used by the childminder to help prevent accidents and keep children safe. The childminder has very good arrangements for fire safety and has made provision for a safe and efficient evacuation, including good written plans and records of practice evacuations. She has devised a system that children know well, in that they follow the hands that they have drawn and painted to a safe exit. The childminder helps children learn about safety and keeping themselves safe.

The childminder has a good awareness of the issues involved in protecting children from abuse, and has undertaken three child protection training courses.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have a warm and caring relationship with the childminder who involves them in discussions about their home life, nursery and school. They interact confidently with the childminder who shows a detailed understanding of their individual needs and they are settled and comfortable in her care. Children develop well as they have many suitable activities for their age and understanding. For instance, toddlers play with building blocks where they experiment and build shapes and they join in action songs where they learn to move and name their arms and legs. Three and four-year-old children sing along to the action songs which also help them learn to count to ten. Expressive and enthusiastic language is used by the childminder when interacting with the 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 a good understanding of the educational development of children putting into practise skills and methods gained from experience and relevant training. The childminder has a fundamental knowledge and experience of the care and provision for babies and very young children and uses the Birth to three matters framework to help organise the activities and promote children's development. Children benefit because their parents are fully involved in their experiences from the daily diary and regular discussions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn to be respectful and interact positively because the childminder treats them with respect, kindness, warmth and affection. They 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.

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. They are fully consulted about all aspects of the care provided to ensure that this meets their approval. They provide written information for the childminder about their children and have contracts with her to ensure the relationship is on the correct footing. Parents provided written testimonials for this inspection which are all very positive about the stimulating and varied experiences that their children have in a happy family environment.

Children are cared for as individuals with differences being acknowledged and enjoyed. They 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 a good understanding of equal opportunity and special needs issues. From these, children develop an awareness and positive attitude to difference.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder provides clear routines and organised activities which give children confidence in the setting. Children benefit from the relevant training attended by the childminder which is reflected in the high standard of care provided. The childminder has a good commitment to continue to develop her service for children. The well planned daily routine and well resourced setting, allows children to experience a wide variety of stimulating and interesting activities.

The documentation kept enhances the care provided by being relevant and well-organised. The childminder keeps good records which are securely stored. However, as noted previously the record of accidents should be kept in a way that ensures the full confidentiality of the information. She has very good written policies and procedures which form the basis of her care for children and provide information for parents. The childminder has current public liability insurance and a current first aid qualification, so that children are well protected. She displays her certificate on the wall as is required.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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 records of accidents are fully confidential.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk