



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	311036
<b>Inspection date</b>	27 April 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Paula Fretwell
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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 husband and their three daughters, two of whom are adults and the other is aged 15 years. The family keep rabbits and tortoises as pets. There are currently five children on roll.

The childminder lives in the Hanging Heaton area of Kirklees. Shops and local amenities are within walking distance. The minded children have use of all rooms on the ground floor with access to toilet facilities on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play to the rear of the premises.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Appropriate hygiene procedures which prevent the spread of cross infection are in place to ensure children's health. For example, the childminder ensures children's hands are washed or wiped regularly and close attention is paid to ensure children wash their hands after handling pets. Sick children are not accepted and the childminder contacts parents if a child becomes ill in her care, to prevent the risk of infection to others.

Children's dietary needs are suitably met and the childminder works with parents to provide balanced meals. Children are encouraged to eat healthy snacks, such as fruit, and they have regular access to drinks throughout the day which ensures they are not thirsty.

Children have suitable opportunities to practise their physical skills indoors and outdoors. They walk to school daily and have regular access to the childminder's garden. Children are developing confidence in their agility and they have appropriate resources available to support their physical needs.

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

The provision is inadequate.

The environment is warm, welcoming and safe for children to play. They independently move around the play areas and select age appropriate toys in safety. They enjoy using the toys and equipment which are clean and well maintained and the childminder supervises children to ensure all resources are used safely.

Children's safety is maintained because the childminder is aware of the hazards and takes appropriate steps to reduce the risk of injury. Everyday safety is discussed with children at a simple level they can understand, such as explaining why we wear seat belts in a taxi. Toys and equipment are rotated from a basic range, which is checked regularly to ensure they are safe for children. The childminder ensures all equipment is used appropriately during her play and supervision with the children.

Children are helped to become aware of how to stay safe when out and about because the childminder talks to them about their safety. Children's awareness of what to do in a fire is encouraged and there are other fire safety measures in place, such as smoke alarms and a fire blanket.

The childminder does not have a clear understanding of child protection issues or the procedure to follow in the event of a concern. The childminder does not ensure that all persons who have regular contact with the children have been vetted.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and content in the childminder's care and they freely explore their environment. They enjoy choosing their own activities and they confidently approach the childminder to make their needs known. The childminder is warm and responsive to the children and there are trusting relationships to help them feel secure.

Children enjoy a basic range of activities which are appropriate for their development. Children enjoy outings with the childminder. For example, they talk excitedly about going on a bus to take the rabbit to the vet. Children especially enjoy playing outside and the childminder interacts well with them, responding positively to their interests, such as encouraging them to identify the emergency vehicle when they hear a siren. The childminder is aware of each child's personality and stage of development and she encourages their language skills through plenty of conversation and chatter.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder gives praise and encouragement to support children's confidence and they respond happily to her positive tone of voice. She is very aware of all individual children's personalities and this helps her to provide appropriate play and activities for each child.

Children are learning to understand how to behave well and share toys with each other. The childminder understands their stages of development and manages unwanted behaviour at a level which they understand, with simple rules in place for safety. For example, very young children's attention is diverted to another activity and older children are given appropriate explanations or asked to say sorry if they have hurt someone. However, a negative strategy is sometimes used, such as asking a child to sit on 'the naughty step' and this does not promote children's self-esteem.

The childminder helps to build children's knowledge and understanding of differences through the use of some positive images in play equipment and resources. However, there are few which positively show disabilities to help children learn that everyone has different skills and abilities.

Effective communication is in place with parents to ensure children's needs are met and information is exchanged on a daily basis. Parents are assured of confidentiality when discussing aspects of their child's care with the childminder.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are cared for within a secure routine and they are happy and settled in the environment which is organised appropriately to meet their needs. The organisation of the play areas enables children to choose their own activities and freely access the available resources.

The childminder is assisted at times by her daughter whom all the children and parents in the setting are familiar with. However, her current registration does not allow her to use an assistant and this is a breach in her conditions of registration. The childminder has not ensured that all adult household members have undertaken clearances and this is also a breach in regulations.

Documentation is in place and filed securely and daily records are maintained as required. The childminder is aware of the requirement for her to record any complaints received.

Overall the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to obtain a fire blanket which she has done to contribute to children's safety. She was also asked to develop resources to include some positive images of gender. This has been addressed so that books and toys promote equal opportunities for boys and girls.

### **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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure clearances are undertaken for all household members over 16
- develop knowledge of child protection issues including reporting procedures for how to pass on concerns.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)