



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	311770
Inspection date	20 March 2006
Inspector	Lynne Pope
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 satisfactory. 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 1991. She lives with her husband, one child aged 13 years old and one adult child in the Saltwell area of Gateshead. The dining room, kitchen and downstairs toilet of the childminder's house are used for childminding. There are no outdoor facilities, but children are taken on regular outings.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under 5-years-old all day, and two children over 5-years-old, before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group, and takes children to the local library, park and childminders drop-in.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, well-maintained home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. For example, the childminder gives consistent guidance as they are reminded to wash their hands before meals. The childminder has a satisfactory awareness of special dietary requirements through consultation with parents. Children learn and benefit from a healthy diet. They have access to fruit during the day and drinks are freely available.

Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their health. They benefit from physical activities which help them to learn control of their bodies. Outdoor play is a regular feature of their care where they visit the local park, toddler group and soft play. The result is that children develop a positive attitude towards exercise. They are able to rest or be active according to their needs. An accident record is maintained, however, entries need to be made on separate pages to maintain confidentiality. Written consent is obtained from parents to administer medication, however, there is no record of administration to protect children's welfare.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The child friendly environment has been organised to enable children to explore and take risks while being appropriately supervised. It is made welcoming by a broad, well-maintained range of resources being available for children. They choose what they would like to play with, therefore developing their independence. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to ensure that they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder identifies and minimises risks around the home. Children are kept safe on outings through the procedures that the childminder has in place. They learn the importance of keeping safe through sensitive reminders that the childminder gives. For example, they are given guidelines when crossing the road and take responsibility for pressing the button at pelican crossings. The childminder safeguards children's welfare by having a satisfactory knowledge of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has a calm, confident manner when caring for children. This results in children being content and settled. She uses good procedures to find out about what children can do through a staged introduction to herself and her home. She is responsive to the children's individual needs. Children develop their self-esteem, confidence and become independent through the sensitive approach of the childminder, with the result that they make satisfactory progress. They are given the scope to use their initiative and become independent during purposeful and developmentally appropriate activities. For example, in the home they use their

imagination well as they role play with the road track. The childminder sits on the floor with children and joins in with their play. She encourages them to count and recognise colours. Children join in enthusiastically with favourite songs and rhymes and are eager to listen to a story. Regular outings stimulate their interest in the wider world. They visit the local art gallery and museums. Listen to stories at the library and mix with other children at local community groups.

A good relationship has been built up between the childminder and children. They are encouraged to understand right from wrong through a sensitive approach, which is appropriate to their age. They receive plenty of positive praise and encouragement which helps to develop their self-esteem.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world, increasing children's understanding of others. They learn about the local community as they walk in the environment and visit the park and library. They socialise with other children at various community groups. Children are included in a wide variety of experiences, encouraging a sense of achievement and enjoyment. A good relationship is developed between the childminder and children. Consistent boundaries are set and good behaviour encouraged through praise, with the result that children learn to manage their own behaviour.

A satisfactory relationship has been established between the childminder and parents. Children's individual needs are discussed with parents and carers before they attend. This enables her to offer the child appropriate support. Feedback is given to parents on a daily basis which enhances their child's development. However, parents have not been informed about the changes in legislation regarding making a complaint in the event that they should have a concern about the care of their child. There is no complaint record available to record concerns.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is enhanced by satisfactory organisation. Flexible daily routines allow them to experience a range of activities in the home and wider community. They feel at home and at ease in the organised environment. They have easy access to resources which means that they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. They are well supported by the childminder.

The childminder has attended short courses, which enhances her skills when caring for children. For example, she has attended a sign-language course and updated her first aid certificate. Children benefit from her active involvement with a local childminding group. This broadens their experiences and the childminder increases her knowledge about quality childcare. She uses policies and procedures adequately to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children that attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous Children Act inspection recommended that a booklet be obtained on child protection guidelines. There is one in place which gives the childminder information on protecting children's welfare.

Complaints since the last inspection

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. There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- ensure that a record is kept of administration of medication that includes the childminder's signature and the signature of the parent to acknowledge that they have been informed
- ensure that the record of accidents is maintained confidentially
- ensure that parents are aware of the changes to legislation regarding complaints and that a complaints record is available.

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