



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY306826
Inspection date 03 March 2006
Inspector Pauline Pinnegar

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 has been registered since April 2005. She lives in a house in the Elm Tree area of Stockton-on-Tees, with her husband and three children aged 10, 6 and 1 year. The house is situated close to local amenities including shops and school. The ground floor is used for childminding plus most of the upstairs rooms. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children and there are four children on roll. Two children under 5 years and two children over 8 years. All attend on part-time schedules. The childminder is a member of the National

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy outdoor activities in the fresh air, as they play in the garden with a range of outdoor equipment. Older children enjoy ball games such as cricket and bowling in the school holidays. Younger children enjoy walks, weather permitting and attend occasional trips to the shops. This provides regular exercise and promotes healthy living. The childminder has some large play resources in the garden, like bikes and scooters, so that children begin to develop coordination skills. The childminder tries to introduce conversation into everyday activities about the importance of exercise and a healthy lifestyle, in order to promote good health.

The childminder helps children to stay healthy by promoting good hygiene practices. Arrangements for first aid and administration of medication meet requirements and protect children. However, parental consent is not in place for the seeking of emergency treatment or advice, which compromises children's health needs. Parents are clearly informed that sick children can not be cared for. Children learn about good hygiene in their everyday routines. The childminder agrees a care plan with parents to help her respond appropriately to meet individual needs. Children's rest and sleep routines are flexible so that they are content.

The childminder exchanges information with parents on a daily basis, so she keeps up to date with children's health and dietary needs. Arrangements for snacks, meals and drinks are negotiated carefully, for example, preferences for simple cold meals are respected. The childminder provides balanced snacks, light lunches, and children are always offered yoghurt or organically grown fruit. She aims to achieve a balance between allowing children freedom to express their own preferences, whilst encouraging them to make healthy choices. One child stated he 'liked banana's but did not like strawberries'. They are offered choices from fresh fruit juice, milk or water to drink.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. The childminder appropriately assesses risks and hazards so that children's safety and enjoyment are promoted. The childminder gives priority to safe supervision and takes into account the age range present when planning different activities. The available space is used effectively to provide safe play areas for children's different needs. Children are escorted safely in a vehicle with appropriate car seats in place. However, written parental consent is not in place.

Children have access to a good range of toys and equipment and these are maintained in a safe condition. They are stored at child height so children can access

them safely and promote their independence. Children are developing an awareness of road safety, for example they learn to walk carefully holding onto the pushchair along busy roads. They know they must walk safely on the stairs so they do not fall. All the required fire safety equipment is in place and although the childminder has developed a clear emergency evacuation procedure it does not include a practise drill to raise children's awareness.

The childminder has sufficient knowledge of child protection issues and is aware of her responsibilities in ensuring children are protected from harm. Where concerns arise, she understands she must follow the local procedures. Required records are maintained appropriately.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem due to the good relationship they have with the childminder. Children enjoy interesting activities using a wide range of stimulating resources, which support and challenge their development. They develop confidence as the childminder talks to them and shows interest in what they are doing. She observes children's play, finding out what they enjoy and can do, so that she plans experiences to develop new skills and extend their learning. Children receive frequent praise and encouragement, which makes them feel good about themselves.

The childminder provides a satisfactory range of activities to suit children, but they are not sufficiently focussed on the needs of the under threes. Birth to three matters framework is not used effectively to plan the next stages of development for younger children. All children have lots of opportunities to develop their creative skills through art and craft activities. They enjoy finger painting, collage and play dough. Children's imagination is promoted through the use of small world toys and dressing up clothes.

Children are settled and happy in the childminders care. Routines and care have been established which are consistent with home, this promotes children's sense of security and develops their confidence. Young children's home experiences are built on by the childminder. She respects their independent choices and her caring; supportive interactions encourage confident play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are valued and met effectively. They receive support and encouragement as they play, providing reassurance and promoting their confidence and self-esteem. Children have their individual needs met due to the childminder's good working relationships with parents. She knows children well because she is kept successfully informed. Daily diaries are completed for younger children. However, she has not developed a complaints procedure for parents and her complaints record is not in line with new registration requirements. Settling in

procedures are effective and ensure children feel happy and secure in their environment.

Children feel a sense of belonging and are settled with the childminder because she warmly welcomes them into her home and obviously enjoys her time with them. They understand responsible behaviour, develop self-esteem and respect for others, due to the good example set by the childminder. She speaks kindly to them, uses and encourages good manners at all times and provides children with clear boundaries. They behave well which is largely due to the consistently positive attention they receive.

Children become aware of the wider society because they are beginning to access resources and activities which promote diversity. They develop confidence as they play cooperatively and enjoy some outings, finding out about their local community. They enjoy playing with the varied range of resources which include books, dressing up clothes and dolls and figures.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare is promoted in the well organised and safe environment. Their individual needs are supported by flexible planning. Routines are responsive to individual needs and effectively support children's care and development. Children are able to join in and participate within a well organised, safe environment. Resources are accessible so that children can independently select their own activities and plan their own play. The childminder has completed all mandatory training.

Children are kept safe and their welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's understanding and implementation of all required policies and procedures. Clear written agreements are reached with parents including all the required consent forms. The childminder shares information daily with them about children's activities and care needs, enabling consistency and continuity of care.

Overall the childminder meets the individual needs of all the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 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):

- request written parental consent, to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- develop the emergency evacuation procedure to include a practice fire drill
- ensure prior written parental consent is in place when transporting children in a vehicle
- develop a knowledge and understanding of the Birth to three matters framework
- develop a complaints procedure for parents.

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