



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY310236
Inspection date	10 April 2006
Inspector	Cilla Burdis

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 2005. She lives with her partner and three children, aged 2, 11 and 16 years, in a residential area of Sunderland. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children, at any one time, and is currently minding two children. The childminder uses her car to transport children to and from local schools. There are no family pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a range of physical activities that promote good health, for example, playing ball games, using equipment in the local park and dancing to music tapes in the childminder's home. Children's individual sleep patterns are followed, and children are monitored closely while sleeping. Children can rest and relax at any time on the comfortable seating in the living room.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming environment where good standards of hygiene are maintained. The children learn about good hygiene practice through the care routines followed such as, washing hands after playing outdoors and before eating. The childminder's sickness policy is effective in protecting children from illnesses that are infectious or contagious.

The childminder ensures she is clearly informed of children's individual dietary needs before caring for the children. Children are encouraged to eat some healthy foods including fresh fruit and yogurts in addition to the less healthy options such as crisps and biscuits. Children have regular drinks throughout the day.

Most of the documentation required to promote the health and welfare of the children is available and the childminder understands her responsibilities to record accidents and any medication administered. She does not, however, have written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Children's health is satisfactorily promoted. The childminder is due to undertake first aid training imminently, however, at the time of this inspection she did not hold a current first aid certificate. She is not, therefore fully complying with the requirements of her registration in promoting children's welfare.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a child-centred environment. Generally, children's safety is promoted effectively, however, some potential risks to children's safety have not been reduced effectively. To ensure children are safe, the childminder closely supervises the children at all times. The childminder shows the children ways to keep themselves safe. Sensitive reminders are used to support the children's learning. The childminder promotes children's safety on outings. She makes sure they are transported in age appropriate car seats and she straps babies securely in their buggies. Older children are informed that they must walk close to her.

The childminder has a suitable range of toys and resources for the children. All resources are safe and well maintained. The childminder organises her home effectively to provide an accessible and stimulating environment where children can make choices and decisions about their activities.

The childminder understands her role in safeguarding and promoting children's welfare. The childminder's current child protection knowledge is satisfactory. She does not, however, have a copy of the government's guidelines detailing what to do if concerns are raised. As a result, she does not have the information available to ensure she is able to fully safeguard children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well with the childminder. She helps children to feel safe and secure by responding affectionately in accordance with the individual needs of the child. The childminder organises her home well to enable children to explore and make choices. The childminder helps to develop children's self-esteem and confidence by providing consistent support and meaningful praise.

The childminder provides a varied range of activities to promote children's learning and development. She gets to know children's preferences and their abilities and provides activities accordingly. All children are encouraged to play together and to join in activities. The childminder adapts the activity so that each child can participate at their own level and ability. Children's learning is further developed by the childminder who provides appropriate levels of support.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued as individuals and encouraged to treat others with respect. Children are welcomed into the childminder's home and she makes sure she has a clear understanding of the individual needs of the child. The childminder develops children's understanding of the wider world through discussions about what they have seen on television or from their first hand experiences. Children's awareness, however, is not extended by having access to a range of resources that reflect the diversity of society. The children learn about their local community through regular outings and visits.

The childminder takes a consistent and supportive approach in managing children's behaviour. She advises and guides the children to encourage good behaviour. Age appropriate strategies are used to help children learn what is right and wrong. Children are helped to consider the feeling of others by playing games together where they learn to share and take turns.

The childminder values effective partnerships with parents, which ensure a consistent approach in children's care. The childminder establishes children's care needs from discussions with parents before the children attend. This enables her to meet the children's needs effectively and helps children to settle well. Parents are informed of their child's care and activities when they collect their child.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a well organised environment where children have easy access to toys and resources, which supports their independence well. Activities are planned to meet the individual needs of the children attending. Children's experiences are broadened by visits to the local parks and schools.

Most of the required documentation is well-maintained, which impacts well on the quality of care provided for the children. The childminder understands her responsibility to share information with parents to ensure children's safety and welfare. The childminder, however, does not have written consent from parents to authorise her to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and does not have written permission to transport children in a vehicle. Consequently, she is not fully ensuring that all children's needs are being met in accordance with parental wishes.

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 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.
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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):

- complete a first aid course, which includes training in first aid for infants and young children, and which is consistent with any guidance issued to local

authorities by the secretary of state

- ensure all risks to children's safety are minimised before children attend, with particular regard to safety of the stairs, the hearth and accessible electrical sockets
- obtain a copy of the government booklet, What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'
- obtain resources that reflect positive images of the diversity of society
- obtain written parental consent to see emergency medical advice or treatment and to transport children in a vehicle.

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