



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY308752
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 April 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Mary Dingley

<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 good. 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 husband, school aged son and young baby in Donderry near Torpoint. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. A small enclosed front yard is available for outside play. The childminder works with an assistant and

there are currently eight children on roll. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends local carer and toddler groups if needed. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about good hygiene practices through daily routines. They know when to wash their hands, for example before meals and snacks. However, a communal towel is used by all eight children. This puts children at risk of cross infection. The childminder teaches children about reducing the risk of spreading infection by putting their hands over their mouths when they cough or sneeze. Sick children are appropriately cared for, medication is only administered with prior written consent from parents or carers and children with infectious illness are excluded. Children benefit from regular fresh air and exercise, through trips to local places of interest, such as the beach or play areas.

They enjoy a healthy well-balanced diet. For example, there are vegetarian options and fruit available daily. Dietary needs, likes and dislikes are recorded by the childminder. Drinks are available for children to help themselves which ensures their fluid level is maintained in accordance with their needs. Meal and snack times are sociable occasions where children sit together developing their social and language skills.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a safe environment where they play and rest according to their needs. There is ample safe space for a variety of activities. For example, a large table where they eat their meals or do painting and gluing activities; a quiet area where they watch TV or rest. Resources provided are safe, appropriate to the age of child using them and easily accessed by children.

Children's risk of accidental injury is reduced because the childminder has a good awareness of potential hazards in and outside the home and takes steps to minimise these. For example, the outside doors are locked or bolted, fires are guarded, the floor is uncluttered and children are never unsupervised while playing in the front garden. Children learn to keep themselves safe. The childminder teaches them about road safety issues and they are escorted from school to her home. Children are involved in fire drills each school term and these are recorded.

Children are well protected from harm. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and her responsibilities in this area. She and her assistant have undertaken child protection training.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good and varied range of activities which promote their all round

development. Their mathematical thinking is promoted through every day activities such as counting and letter writing and their imagination through role play, stories and talking to each other. However, the childminder is conscious of not overloading them with too many structured activities after their formal day at school.

All children play well together benefiting from good interaction with the childminder and her assistant. They talk about what they are doing or what they have done at school. The older ones often support the younger ones in their play, offering guidance. This provides the older children with a sense of responsibility. Children feel secure and have a sense of belonging because they are aware of their routines, boundaries and house rules.

Children are happy, confident and well adjusted while in the childminder's care. They accept changes to routines without question. Their independence and confidence are promoted through being given choices and allowed to make decisions about their food and play activities.

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

The provision is good.

All children receive respect from the childminder and her assistant and therefore learn to respect each other. They are praised for their achievements and contributions, which helps them feel valued. Children learn about each other's differences because the childminder talks about issues as they arise. They have a good variety of resources reflecting diversity. This helps children to appreciate the wider community in which they are growing up.

Children's behaviour is very good. This is influenced by the adults' calm approach to situations. Children learn about the consequences of their actions on others. Adults caring for children promote positive behaviour and ensure children realise it is their behaviour that is unacceptable, not them.

Children receive appropriate care because there is a good exchange of information between the childminder and parents. The childminder ensures she has all relevant information needed and keeps parents up to date through daily discussions about their day. Policies and procedures are made available to parents, ensuring they are aware of the childminder's responsibilities in certain areas.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and secure in this well-organised environment. The childminder maintains all required training such as first aid and is willing to undertake further training to enhance her knowledge and practice. She currently holds a professional child care qualification. The childminder also supports her assistant in attending relevant courses. This contributes towards providing an efficient and effective childminding service.

All mandatory records are in place and the childminder is proactive in ensuring she is up to date with the latest changes in regulations. She has a number of policies and procedure which contribute to the welfare and care of the children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she 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 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):

- provide individual towels for children.

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