



Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** 317096  
**Inspection date** 11 May 2005  
**Inspector** Stephen Andrew Blake

**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](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 lives with her husband and two children in their three bedroomed semi-detached home in a residential estate on the outskirts of Carlisle. Local resources include shops, schools, parks, hospitals and churches. The childminder's husband is also registered as a childminder.

The childminder has been registered for 17 years. She is registered to mind alone and also to work with an assistant or other registered childminder. When working alone, the childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of 6 children including 2 children under 1 year. When working with an assistant or other registered

childminder, the childminder may provide care to a maximum of 12 children. At present there are 8 children on her roll. There are no children with special needs and there are no children for whom English is an additional language.

Minded children have access to the whole of the property except the utility room and the front garden. The rear garden is available to minded children under supervision for outdoor play.

The family have two rabbits which live outdoors.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their good health within the registered premises and when engaged on regular trips and outings for example, when using the outdoor sit and ride toys and going for local walks. Children are increasingly aware of their health and bodily needs for example, knowing when they are thirsty and resting when needed. They access a range of good quality and age appropriate resources that promote their physical development. Younger children benefit from the childminders good understanding of their individual needs and this will develop further as the childminder begins to understand and implement her newly acquired Birth to 3 Matters framework materials. Her ability to provide appropriate activities and support enables children to try new experiences and ask for help when needed.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and well maintained environment. Children are developing an age appropriate understanding of good hygiene through the childminder's encouragement and modelling for example, when washing children's hands after using the toilet or before food and encouraging children to brush their teeth after eating. Children benefit from the childminders good understanding of health and hygiene for example, through a safe and hygienic nappy changing procedure, regular cleaning of resources and good food hygiene strategies.

Children benefit from a varied and healthy diet. They enjoy home made healthy snacks and meals that contains a good range of fruit and vegetables. Children remain healthy through the childminders ability to record and understand their individual dietary needs. The childminder records her planned menu's and shares these with parents.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a spacious home where risks are identified and minimised for example, through regular monitoring of toys to ensure that they do not pose a hazard to children. Children benefit from a secure environment and this helps them to stay safe. The childminder gives a high priority to helping children understand how to

keep themselves safe and to maintaining children's safety outside the home for example, in having appropriate procedures for transporting children in the car and when participating in local walks.

Children independently access a range of good quality toys and equipment which meets safety standards. The childminder monitors children's choice of toys and activities to ensure that they are appropriate for their age and stage of development. She is aware of appropriate supervision ratios and works with other registered childminders to ensure that these are adhered to at all times. This ensures that children enjoy appropriate supervision for all activities. The childminder has a good range of written policies and procedures to ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted for example, action to be taken in the event of a child being lost, written procedures for child protection and a displayed fire evacuation procedure. She provides her parents with written copies of these procedures. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminders house and relate well to each other. Children enjoy a good relationship with the childminder and respond to her warmly. They develop independence as they choose between a variety of toys, books and activities which appeal to all. Good questioning techniques used by the childminder mean that children benefit from a range of age appropriate challenges, for example, when identifying colours, comparing numbers and discussing their chosen toys. These activities are planned and varied by the childminder to ensure that children benefit from a range of activities. Younger children benefit from a good range of accessible and age appropriate resources and will benefit further as the childminder begins to implement the Birth to 3 Matters framework.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a range of resources and activities that promote a positive view of the wider world and develops their awareness of diversity and understanding of others for example, through accessible books, toys and wall displays. Children are motivated and interested in a range of indoor and outdoor activities. They learn about their local community for example, when enjoying local walks and when visiting places of interest.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their needs are well met as they follow their normal daily routine in accordance with discussions with their parents. Children enjoy good relationships and show care and concern for each other, playing harmoniously together. They behave well and children benefit from age appropriate and sensitive behaviour management strategies employed by the childminder in consultation with parents for example, the 'sticker' system to recognise good behaviour. Children make themselves at home, confidently deciding what to do,

asking for drinks when required and independently visiting the toilet.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease in the well organised environment for example, in the childminder's well established routine and accessible resources. This means that children are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Policies and procedures are well written and implemented effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. The childminder shares these with parents and this means that the best interests of individual children are maintained. Plans are regularly monitored.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection the childminder has encouraged children's healthy eating by establishing written healthy menu's. She has attended a Local Authority Child Protection training course. The childminder has also established a clear system to ensure that all persons looking after children are clear regarding who may collect minded children.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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):

- continue to develop a knowledge and understanding of the needs of children under 3 for example, through the use of the Birth to three framework.

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)