

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312501
Inspection date	24 September 2007
Inspector	Julie, Anne Swan
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 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 1992. She lives with her husband and adult son close to the centre of South Shields. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house, except the front lounge is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed yard for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding five children under five all day, and three children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has a cockatiel.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Each day there are physical activities to help them develop control of their bodies. For example, they play in the enclosed yard where they are able to run and play with a selection of push and ride toys. Children try out new skills and develop confidence in their own abilities. This is because the

childminder has a good understanding of the differing abilities of the children and ensures that equipment and activities are suitable to their individual needs.

Children are cared for in a very clean and comfortable environment, where they develop an understanding of good hygiene and personal care. For example, they use the bathroom independently and remember to wash their hands afterwards. The childminder has good hygiene practices in place for the care of her pets and the safety of children in their vicinity, which the children understand; children know not to put their fingers in the cage and take care when feeding the bird with fruit. This reduces the risk of the spread of infection and protects children.

Children are beginning to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They make choices from a range of healthy snacks which include fresh fruit and vegetables. The childminder has a sound understanding of what constitutes a healthy diet and is successful in meeting children's dietary needs in consultation with parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home where risks are identified and minimised. They use the ground floor rooms only and are able to use the space safely and independently. The childminder remains in close contact with the children whilst allowing them to choose activities for themselves, which helps to promote safety and prevent accidents in their play. The childminder gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe by ensuring older children hold onto the buggy when crossing roads, and by the use of reins for younger children.

Systems are in place for the childminder to check toys and resources for cleanliness and safety, which results in children having a wide range of quality items to play with.

The childminder has all the required policies, procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. She has attended a number of child protection courses and is aware of her responsibility to protect children and to keep them safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very well settled and happy at the childminder's home as they take part in an extensive range of activities both in and out of the home. Children have excellent opportunities to socialise with others as they attend toddler groups and enjoy trips in the local community. The childminder arranges outings to the park where children benefit from new experiences and can explore new areas of interest, particularly exploring their physical capabilities and discovering nature. They are secure and confident with themselves and the other children attending. Children are extremely sociable and the way they relate to each other is pleasurable to watch. They share games and activities together and help each other out.

Children become independent as they choose between a variety of toys, books and activities which are appealing. The childminder uses her good knowledge and experience in developing children's language and listening, to adapt activities such as singing and storytelling to promote children's learning. The children are keen to communicate with the childminder as they play games and listen to stories with her.

Children are challenged to use what they know and learn more, and make good progress in all aspects of their development. This is because the childminder has a good understanding of how children learn and plans activities which are aimed at the individual ages and stages of development of each child.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are confident, independent and secure in their environment because the childminder strives to ensure that their individual needs are met. Children are beginning to have an understanding of the wider community and respect for others through play with a good range of resources reflective of equal opportunities issues and the childminder's sound understanding of the subject.

Children behave very well and are beginning to understand the consequences of unacceptable behaviour on others. The childminder has very good strategies in place for managing behaviour which are appropriate to the children's ages and stages of development.

The childminder communicates with parents everyday. They share information about the children's activities and regularly review arrangements to ensure any concerns are dealt with immediately and effectively. This contributes to the continuity of care for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are safe and free from harm because the childminder has a good understanding of the National Standards and is successful in interpreting them. She is committed to continually developing her practice through training and attending courses which she feels benefits the children in her care. However, to date she has been unable to access training in the 'Birth to Three matters' framework.

Children make good progress in all areas of their development because the childminder has very good knowledge of childcare and development through extensive experience. The childminder is very well organised. She makes the best use of her time, space and resources to create an orderly and stimulating environment for the children. The children are safe, settled, secure and confident within their environment.

Documentation is up-to-date and recorded well. It is shared regularly with parents to ensure that they are fully informed about their child's achievements and progress and this contributes to continuity in the children's care.

Overall, the provision meets the need of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection recommendations were raised relating to documentation and safety. Clearances have been completed for all household member, all appropriate parental consents are in place and a drain cover has been repaired ensuring that children's safety and welfare are maintained.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- develop knowledge of 'Birth to Three Matters'.

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