



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY103927
Inspection date	03 August 2005
Inspector	Jacqueline West

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 2002. She lives in a house in Dawdon, on the outskirts of Seaham, County Durham. She lives with her 2 adult daughters and one child aged 5 years. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home except for the bedroom is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time and is currently minding 3 children under 5 on a part time basis. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family pets are birds.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The environment is clean, warm and welcoming with a good standard of hygiene maintained throughout. Children are encouraged to become aware of appropriate hygiene practices by following care routines implemented by the childminder.

Children's dietary needs are regularly discussed with the parents resulting in appropriate meals and snacks being provided. Healthy eating is encouraged. There are good procedures in place for the safe storage of food and bottles that have been prepared by the parents. Children are provided with regular drinks.

Children explore, test and develop physical control, for example, the babies sit on the floor stretching various ways for the toys. Children's physical well being is enhanced through regular outdoor play and opportunity to rest and be active as they require. Overall children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's home is organised effectively to enable children the opportunity to move freely and independently. The majority of risks have been identified however some are still to be addressed to ensure a safe environment for children, for example the accessible hearth and dangerous substances. Children are actively encouraged to gain an understanding of safety when in and out of the home for example; the childminder explains the dangers of their actions.

Children have access to a range of good quality resources including books, stickle bricks, musical toys and rattles. The childminder ensures that toys are safe for use and do not pose as a hazard to the children accessing them.

Fire safety is satisfactory. The childminder is clear regarding a fire evacuation procedure and regularly checks the fire alarms; she has identified that the ground floor smoke alarm needs replacing and has contacted the appropriate authority. Emergency contact details are documented and the details stored in the childminder's mobile phone for easy access when on outings.

Children's welfare is promoted by the childminder who holds a current first aid certificate. Children are well protected as the childminder demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues. She has relevant contact details available however, does not have the required child protection booklet.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a homely atmosphere resulting in happy, settled children. The children have developed a good, secure relationship with the childminder.

The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of child development. She rotates the equipment and provides a satisfactory range of activities to promote children's all-round development however; this could be further enhanced by incorporating natural materials within the play equipment for babies. Children are assisted at play on their level. The babies enjoy close eye contact and cuddles of reassurance, they respond by laughing and smiling.

The children are learning to develop their communication skills and are exploring with sounds and noises, the childminder assists their development by responding appropriately. Children are inquisitive and eager to explore for example, the babies used all their senses when playing with the available resources. Children have some opportunity to self select and develop independence. Regular visits to a local toddler group provide opportunities for children to socialise with others and to use a wider range of resources.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning about themselves and the world that they live in which encourages the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development however; there are limited meaningful resources readily available within the play equipment. Children visit places of interest within the local community including the park and shops.

The childminder provides an environment in which children are valued and respected as individuals. All children are welcomed into the setting. Children are learning to share and take turns through the childminders sensitive support and encouragement. The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of effective behaviour management and the impact her actions have on the children. Children are very settled and well behaved; they are encouraged to be polite and courteous. They benefit from a good, sensitive role model.

Partnership with parents is good. Parental involvement is highly beneficial to the continuity of care the children receive. The childminder is regularly updated by the parents ensuring that she continues to meet the ongoing needs of the children in her care. A written diary is given to the parents to keep them fully informed of the activity that has taken place.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a satisfactory knowledge of the National Standards however must ensure that Ofsted are informed of any significant changes. The children feel at home and at ease. The environment is organised to meet their needs,

for example, daily routines are flexible to ensure that children can be active and rest as required. Age appropriate resources are set out in a spacious area for the children arriving.

Children's care is enhanced by the positive attitude and disposition of the childminder. All records are up to date and well maintained helping towards providing a safe environment for children.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder was asked to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources to promote equal opportunities, complete an appropriate first aid course and keep a sufficiently detailed record of significant issues. The majority of the recommendations have been completed. The childminder has completed an appropriate first aid course and has the certificate displayed. She has an incident book that is shared with parents. Through discussions it is evident that children are provided with activities and outings to promote equal opportunities however the resources are still limited.

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 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):

- ensure that a copy of 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused' is obtained
- ensure Ofsted are informed of any significant changes
- review the safety within the home environment to ensure that proper precautions are taken to reduce risks
- provide a range of natural materials for babies to explore.

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