

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 312429  
**Inspection date** 14 August 2007  
**Inspector** Cathryn Parry

**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 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 1986. She lives with her husband and two adult children in the residential area of Whitburn in Sunderland. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children under eight years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends the local parent and toddler group. The family have two goldfish.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children can participate in activities as the premises and equipment are generally clean. The childminder washes all the toys twice a year and the soft toys and baby resources on a more regular basis. Children are learning appropriate personal hygiene practices through daily routines and suitable role modelling. They are encouraged to wash their hands before meals and after

using the toilet. Systems are in place to gather information from parents and carers regarding medical needs, dietary requirements and allergies. This has a positive impact on children's well-being. However, parents and carers do not countersign to acknowledge administration of medicines. Consequently, this has a detrimental effect on safeguarding children.

Children access opportunities for physical activities, including walks on the beach and using sit and ride toys. They are encouraged to develop their body awareness through music and movement activities, such as dancing. Children are active or restful through choice and babies sleep in-line with their individual needs and parent's wishes. The childminder provides reasonably healthy meals and snacks, including fish fingers, baked potatoes and pasta. Parents also have the option to provide their children's meals should they wish. Consequently, any specific needs are met. Children can ask for drinks, as well as diluted juice and water being provided. This has a positive impact on their overall well-being.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder supervises the children at all times. This is supplemented with appropriate procedures for adults collecting children, which has a positive impact on children's safety. However, her home is not secure at all times. Consequently, this has a detrimental effect on safeguarding children. Those who go on outings are kept safe as the childminder is vigilant. She encourages them to hold onto the buggy and uses age-appropriate restraints when needed. Routines, such as using pedestrian crossings encourage children to take responsibility for their own well-being. They are able to explore without harming themselves using resources, which are bought from reputable suppliers. These are suitable for the ages and stages of development of the children attending.

All safety equipment is in place reducing the risk of accidents. This includes electrical socket covers, safety gates and smoke detectors. Risks have been identified and addressed, for instance, plastic film has been put on the summer house windows and the greenhouse is made of plastic. This results in the risk of accidental injury being reduced. The childminder has attended relevant child protection training some years ago, and demonstrates an adequate understanding of associated issues. Consequently, children are suitably safeguarded.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and are happy to participate in the variety of activities provided. These include watching television, building with construction blocks and using musical toys. An appropriate balance of child-centred and adult-led experiences ensures adequate challenge for their age and stage of development. Use is made of the local area giving children a wider range of opportunities, including visits to the library. The childminder sometimes extends activities. An example of this is where children collect stones on the beach and then paint them. This inspires children to be creative and increases their knowledge of the natural world.

Sufficient support is given, which nurtures children's independence, for instance when putting their coats and shoes on. The childminder praises the children, which results in their confidence and self-esteem being promoted. Children enjoy using their imagination as they dress up and play with puppets. They gain confidence when using number when they play dominoes or complete number jigsaws. A variety of creative activities including painting and sticking,

promotes children's self-expression whilst having fun. A range of resources are stored in a cupboard in the conservatory. The children can choose what they want to play with, but generally the childminder selects several activities and toys to meet the interests and abilities of those attending.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children, parents and carers are given the option to have a short induction period before the start to attend. The childminder's adequate understanding of equal opportunities contributes to children's knowledge of the wider community. However, there are limited resources to complement this. Consequently, this has a negative impact on raising children's awareness and understanding of difference. The childminder has no experience of caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities. She did nevertheless, attend related training some years ago. This has a positive impact on her providing an inclusive environment. However, she intends to retire once the children she is currently caring for reach the age of eight years. Consequently, she is not planning to include any further children.

Appropriate behaviour management strategies are agreed with parents and carers before their children start to attend. These include distraction, explanation of why an action or word is not acceptable and a short time out. This results in children generally behaving well. If the parents and carers are interested, the childminder discusses the activities their children have participated in. They also have access to all written records about their children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children access play opportunities through the suitable organisation of space, time and resources. The use of the kitchen enables children to partake in a range of craft activities. This is complemented with the conservatory, which offers a quiet area where children can sleep in their buggy. The flexible routine incorporates time for outings to places of interest, such as the park. The resources chosen by the childminder are displayed on the floor so that children can easily access them. This promotes their independence.

The childminder has been caring for children for over 20 years, which impacts on the quality of care provided. She is aware of her current registration restrictions and adheres to them. This has a positive impact on safeguarding children. The childminder has individual records for each child, which ensures their welfare. She stores them appropriately to maintain confidentiality. Consequently, children and their family's privacy is respected. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous inspection the childminder was asked to obtain a copy of the revised National Standards. She was also requested to obtain written permission from parents for transporting children in a vehicle. The childminder has obtained a copy of the Guidance to the National Standards, which has a positive impact on equipping her to meet the requirements. She does not transport children in a vehicle. Consequently, she has not obtained written permission for this.

## 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 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 parents and carers countersign to acknowledge administration of medicines
- ensure the premises are secure
- further develop equal opportunities resources.

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