

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	310042
Inspection date	28 September 2007
Inspector	Karen Ling
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 1987. She has an recognised level three childcare qualification. She lives with her husband in Forest Hall, North Tyneside. Two play rooms and the bathroom on the first floor and the kitchen on the ground floor are used for childminding. There is a fully 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 children under five all day, and children over five before and after school. Two children under five were present during the inspection. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and well-being is promoted effectively by the childminder. For example, children regularly take part in physical activity. The childminder understands the importance

of this aspect of development, makes it fun and ensures children get regular exercise and fresh air. Children can rest and sleep according to their needs because the childminder follows individual routines and sleep patterns. The environment is set out in a way that allows for busy activity or quiet rest. Children are offered regular nutritious snacks and meals. They are helped to understand about healthy eating by being involved in preparing and cooking food. For example, they help to make their own sandwiches and pizza toppings. They follow good hygiene routines, and are helped to understand the need to wash hands and brush teeth regularly.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play happily and safely in the playrooms which are bright, stimulating and spacious. Children can choose from a very good range of toys and resources which meet the needs of the full age range of children and their different interests. They are at ease as they move around freely selecting toys and resources at their leisure and with the help of the childminder when they need it. The childminder provides care and routines that are in the best interest of each child. She has taken the necessary precautions to minimize risks and supervises children closely as they move from the playrooms to the bathroom. Children learn about how to keep themselves safe, for example they practise the emergency evacuation procedure. The childminder understands her role in child protection and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary. However, information about the procedures to be followed and the childminder's responsibilities with regard to reporting suspected abuse or neglect has not been shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are well stimulated during their time with the childminder because they enjoy a wide variety of activities. The childminder establishes very good relationships with them and knows what captures their interest. This contributes to them being happy and settled and achieving well. Children's learning is often incidental and happens in a very natural and purposeful way. For example, they sing counting songs and then count the stairs as they go down to the garden or discuss the colours on the fruit bowl. The lack of ongoing records of children's progress and achievement means that although learning is reinforced it does not necessarily build on what children already know and can do. They learn to share and take turns as they take part in role play or craft activities and really enjoy playing on the scooter outside and digging in the garden. The childminder walks or uses local transport such as the metro with children so that they can take part in outings to the local park, soft play centres and the beach.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are confident and happy in their surroundings. The childminder is friendly and approachable and develops good relationships with them which helps them to feel secure. Children make choices and take decisions and show high levels of independence, for example as they complete activities and explore how equipment works. They take part in activities within the community such as the local parent and toddler group and experience a range of cultures and diversity. For example, they discuss the differences in dress of people from other countries and sample their food. Children learn to share and take turns and resolve differences amicably

because the childminder discusses and reasons with them. She has good relationships with parents and regular discourse helps keep them informed about their child's progress.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is very experienced and continues to further her own knowledge and understanding of childcare practices. For example, she recently achieved the Level Three Diploma in Home-based Childcare. Consequently, children's well-being is suitably maintained as the childminder updates her knowledge when she accesses training. The areas used for childminding purposes reflect a child-centred environment and the enthusiasm of the childminder to provide a quality childcare provision. Children's work and information for parents is displayed and resources are organised thoughtfully to allow children to move about easily from one area to another. All the necessary documentation is in place and policies and procedures which are followed by the childminder ensure the good care of children. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to obtain parents written permission to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future. This has been done and permission is now obtained at the commencement of a placement. The childminder was also asked to provide positive images of disability within the toys and resources available to children. She has extended the range of resources which positively promote disability and are used in a manner which helps to raise children's awareness of equal opportunity.

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):

- prepare information about the procedures to be followed and the childminder's responsibilities with regard to reporting suspected abuse or neglect and share it with parents

- consider keeping manageable records about children's progress and achievements to further enhance the provision for children's learning and development.

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