

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	403055
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Anthea Errington
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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 has been a registered childminder since 1996. She lives with her husband and three children in their home which is approximately one mile from the centre of Ashington. Minded children have access to the living room, dining area, kitchen, conservatory and toilet, all on the ground floor. There is also an enclosed rear garden for their use. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children and there are currently six children on roll.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm environment where the childminder displays a sufficient level of awareness with regard to the importance of hygiene. For example, toys and surfaces are washed regularly using antibacterial spray and wipes to ensure their suitability, and children wash hands after using the toilet and before eating.

Children's health is further supported as the childminder has a fully stocked first aid kit and has a valid first aid qualification for babies and young children. Most required documentation

is in place, including accident and medication records, however, accident details are not fully completed.

Children have good opportunities to develop their bodies physically and benefit from a routine that offers exercise and rest when required. For example, children enjoy local walks to parks and resources on a daily basis.

The childminder understands the importance of providing children with a healthy and balanced diet. Children enjoy snacks of fruit and regular drinks to ensure that they remain hydrated. The childminder has appropriate procedures in place to obtain information about specific dietary needs.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment where suitable procedures are place in minimise risks. For example, the childminder maintains close supervision of the children at all times and has stair gates, smoke detectors, a fire blanket and some socket covers in place. This reduces the risk of accidents. However, low level blind cords are within young children's reach, which is hazardous to them.

Space is well laid out so that children are able to move around freely. They have access to a good range of resources which the childminder checks and cleans to ensure that they remain safe for the children. Children's safety is further promoted through the childminder having a good understanding of child safety on outings. For example, younger children are strapped safely into buggies and children either hold hands or hold safely onto the buggy. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe as the childminder teaches them road safety.

Children are well protected through the childminder having a good understanding of safeguarding children. There is a well written, informative policy in place and local contact numbers are held for specialist support and advice.

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

The provision is good.

Children's feelings of self-worth and belonging are enhanced by the warm, caring and affectionate relationship the childminder has with them. The childminder uses meaningful praise which helps to develop children's feeling of self-worth. The children receive eye contact and warm, reassuring smiles which further encourage their sense of belonging.

Children happily sit with the childminder whilst they share a book together. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of child development and how children learn. Children benefit from a rich, varied and stimulating environment which enables them to make choices and take decisions as they develop their independence.

The childminder plans activities and experiences both in and outside of the home. At home the children make confident choices from the resources available to them; they interact with one another well and are also happy to play alone. The children enjoy singing with the childminder and enjoy a wide range of activities which contributes to their imaginative development, for example, they laugh and state 'hat, hat' as they place a tin lid on their heads.

The children learn to develop their social skills as they are given regular opportunities to interact with other children on outings to local facilities, such as toddler groups, parks and local resources.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder spends sufficient time to get to know each child and displays a positive attitude towards equality and diversity. Some resources are available for children's use to develop their understanding and knowledge of the wider world. The childminder supports children who learn additional languages at home as she uses words familiar to them. Children learn about the community they live in through visits to local facilities, such as parks and community groups.

The childminder displays a good knowledge and understanding of caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She liaises with parents and other relevant agencies to ensure that children have their needs met and progress well in their development.

Children's behaviour is very good. They interact well with the childminder and benefit from consistent behaviour management to help them to understand right from wrong. The childminder encourages children to be polite and provides regular praise to promote positive behaviour. A well written policy and procedure ensures parents are kept fully informed of strategies used.

Children benefit from very good relationships between the childminder and their parents. The childminder gathers relevant information from parents to ensure that she is able to meet the children's individual needs. Well organised records and verbal feedback keep parents informed about their child's day. However, Ofsted's contact details are incorrect within the information held with regard to complaints.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home and at ease with the childminder, who balances her time effectively to meet the children's needs. Toys and resources are organised so that children can access them independently and make choices about their play, and flexible routines ensure that children receive a balance of indoor and outdoor activities.

The childminder displays a positive attitude towards training and is aware that this will improve the childcare she provides. She holds an appropriate first aid qualification for babies and young children and has recently completed a diploma in home based childcare and Quality First training.

The childminder is aware of the need to maintain, display and keep documentation. Documentation is well organised, accessible and confidentially stored. A record of attendance is kept, however, this does not include children's full names.

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 given two recommendations to obtain an appropriate first aid qualification and fully record accidents and injuries.

Children's safety is further protected as the childminder has completed an appropriate first aid qualification. A procedure for recording accidents and obtaining parents' signatures has been implemented and most records are fully completed.

### **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 complaint 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 children's full names are recorded in the record of attendance
- ensure children do not have access to low level blind cords
- ensure all accident details are fully recorded
- provide Ofsted's correct contact details within the complaints procedure.

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)