

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY243095
Inspection date	11 April 2007
Inspector	Elaine Marie McDonnell
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 April 2003. She lives with her husband and their two sons, who are aged seven and nine years old, on the Ings Estate in Redcar. The home is close to local amenities, such as shops and primary schools. Minded children have the use of the play room and the kitchen on the ground floor. There is also an enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for up to five children under eight years and there is currently one child on roll aged nearly two years, who is cared for on a part time basis. The family have three goldfish and two guinea pigs which minded children have supervised access to.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows current health and hygiene guidelines, for example, the premises and equipment are kept clean. Children are encouraged to learn about personal hygiene through the daily routine and are beginning to understand the importance of this with explanations from the childminder. Appropriate procedures are in place

to protect children's overall health and parents receive written information about various illnesses and recommended exclusion periods. Suitable first aid boxes are available plus an accident and medication record book.

Children are well nourished. They receive varied meals and regular drinks. The childminder finds out about individual dietary requirements or family preferences through discussions with parents, however, information is not currently recorded. Children are beginning to learn about healthy living when talking with the childminder about which foods are good for them to eat and why. Children have regular opportunities to enjoy physical activity, for example, they do exercises in the house, they go for walks in the local area and visit play parks and the beach. Children rest and sleep according to their needs and individual routines, which the childminder is well aware of.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Good steps have been taken to ensure that children are cared for in a safe environment. For example, the premises and garden are kept secure and suitable first aid boxes, fire blanket and smoke alarms are available. Good steps are taken to ensure that children are kept safe when playing outdoors and when on outings. For example, they are always supervised when playing in the garden as there is a lot of ivy growing there, reins are used when out walking and suitable car seats are available.

The environment is very warm and welcoming for the children with a good range of stimulating toys readily available in the playroom. Children have easy access to a good range of toys, equipment and furniture, which are changed periodically. The childminder ensures that resources are safe and suitable for children's use with regular checking routines and also by checking that items are of safety standard when purchasing them. Children learn to keep themselves safe when the childminder talks to them about road safety when on outings. There is a written fire evacuation procedure in place, however, this has not yet been practiced.

Children are appropriately protected as the childminder understands her role in relation to child protection issues and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice when necessary. She demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the different areas of abuse and of possible signs. A written child protection policy is in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are involved in a suitable range of activities and outings that cover all areas of development. For example, listening to stories, craft activities, baking and icing biscuits, jigsaw puzzles, pretend play with cars and figures and outings to the park. Children have opportunities for social interaction with others of a similar age when visiting local play areas and when friends with children visit the childminder's home.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem well when being praised and encouraged by the childminder, such as when fitting pieces into a puzzle. They show an interest in what they do and enjoy the activities and resources available. Children respond well to challenge and concentrate whilst doing a jigsaw puzzle. They have opportunities to be independent and use their initiative, for example, when deciding what to play with from the varied range available.

Children are acquiring new skills and knowledge, such as when beginning to recognise the numbers and shapes on a learning clock.

Children have some opportunities to learn about wider society and begin to appreciate their own culture and the cultural traditions of others. For example, they made dragons to celebrate Chinese New Year and made bunnies at Easter time.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Equal opportunities are appropriately promoted as all children are treated with equal concern, their individual needs are being met. Appropriate procedures are in place for the identification and assessment of children with learning difficulties or disabilities and the childminder has a positive attitude towards caring for children with additional needs.

Children enjoy being with the childminder and enjoy the activities available, they are settled and happy and make positive relationships with adults. Children are well behaved and the childminder manages behaviour appropriately by distracting the children.

The childminder works well in partnership with parents and carers. Parents are kept informed of their child's development and progress through regular discussions. Some policies and procedures are in place and parents receive a copy, for example, a safety policy, accident and emergency policy, child protection and lost or missing children procedures. Appropriate consent forms from parents are available and contract agreements are in place.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures that adults caring for children are suitable to do so as both she and her husband have been appropriately vetted. The childminder has not undertaken any training since her last inspection as she has not minded regularly since then. However, she has a positive attitude towards personal development and will be starting a diploma in home based childcare and a 'Birth to three matters' framework training course in the near future.

Adult to child ratios are maintained and the attendance register is kept up to date and accurate. The childminder has high regard for the well being of all children and they receive good adult support and attention. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Most documents and records required for the safe and efficient management of the provision are available, well kept and up to date.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and local procedures. She was also asked to ensure that she completes an appropriate first aid course and that the daily attendance register is completed and includes the times of children's arrival and departure. Good progress has been made since the last inspection as all recommendations have been fully addressed. Children's safety is promoted as the childminder demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues and local

procedures; she has also completed a suitable first aid course. The organisation of the provision has improved as the attendance record includes the times that children are cared for.

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):

- keep a record of any special dietary requirements, preferences and food allergies a child may have
- practice the emergency escape plan.

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