

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY349988
Inspection date	08 October 2007
Inspector	Donna Suzanne Lancaster
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 has been registered since April 2007. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and five years. They live in an established residential area of Thornaby, close to local amenities, shops and schools. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes. The toilet is located at first floor level. There is no access to the garden.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. There are currently five children on roll, of which four are aged under eight years. Children all attend on a part time basis. They walk to and from the local schools on a daily basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a very clean and welcoming home where they learn the importance of good hygiene routines. The childminder ensures they wash their hands before eating and after attending to personal care needs. She has a good understanding of preventing cross-infection; providing individual towels for children to dry their hands and faces. She has a clear written

sick child policy, holds a current first aid certificate and although she has not yet had to administer any medication to children or record any accidents, she has a sound awareness of the procedure to be followed. However, the childminder has not obtained written consent from all parents to summon medical advice or treatment if necessary, which does not fully safeguarded children's health in an emergency.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure dietary requirements are met. Parents provide packed lunches during school holidays and they enjoy a selection of fresh fruit, cheese and crackers when they come in from school. Fresh drinking water and juice are to hand to ensure children are not thirsty.

Children enjoy a wide range of physical activities and outings in the fresh air which contribute to keeping them fit and well. For example, they walk to and from school each day and often visit the park on their way home from school. The childminder has also begun to take children swimming, with parents consent. Younger children have opportunities to develop their physical skills as they regularly attend toddler groups and the childminder drop-in groups.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The environment is warm and welcoming for the children with a suitable range of toys available in the lounge. These are alternated on a regular basis. Children have easy access to toys, equipment and furniture, and the childminder ensures that resources are safe and suitable for use by ensuring they are age-appropriate and are cleaned regularly.

The childminder has a good understanding of safety issues relating to the care of young children. Potential risks are identified and minimised to make the environment safe and secure. Equipment is used appropriately to maintain safety, for example, a gate at the base of the stairs is available to prevent children from having free access to the stairs, socket covers are in place and most hazardous substances are inaccessible to children. However, the wine rack in the kitchen is within children's reach. Children are beginning to learn about taking care of themselves as the childminder explains to them the rules of the home. For example, they must not jump or climb on the furniture as it may cause injury or harm to themselves or each other. The emergency evacuation procedure includes the provision for a practise drill with children to raise their awareness. Good steps are taken to ensure that children are kept safe when playing outdoors and when on outings. For example, they are well supervised and appropriate car safety seats and belts are used.

The childminder has a thorough knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse and is confident that she would successfully respond to any concerns raised. A clear and well written policy is in place and shared effectively with parents. As a result, this ensures the continued safety and well-being of the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Caring relationships have been developed and children approach the childminder with confidence. The childminder helps to raise children's self-esteem by providing encouragement and praise and valuing their contributions. The childminder provides activities and resources which are varied, sufficiently challenging and developmentally appropriate. For example, play dough, making junk models and using the construction toys to build with. Children talk about making

apple pies and birthday cakes with the childminder and how they enjoy visiting the park on their way home from school. They also have walks around the area and attend regular toddler groups. This raises children's awareness of the local area and offers them opportunities to socialise and make friends.

The childminder is interested in what children do and say and becomes actively involved in their play. For example, a younger child climbs on her knee and they sit and read a story together, whilst the older children attempt to assemble the fire station. She gives them guidance and support in doing this. The childminder is aware of the 'Birth to three matters' framework, she considers this when planning activities. For instance, she has begun to develop natural resourced treasure baskets for babies and young children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder is establishing good working relationships with parents to meet children's individual needs. She does this by sharing relevant information each day about the child's daily activity. Policies and procedures are also shared with parents along with the required documentation. A complaints record is available for parents in line with regulations and a poster showing Ofsted's telephone number is displayed. The childminder follows the children's daily routines, after discussing them with parents, thus ensuring that the children's needs are satisfactorily met.

Children behave well. The childminder uses positive strategies for managing behaviour, which helps children to understand the boundaries. The effective use of praise and encouragement ensures children feel happy and confident and develop self-esteem. The children helped to establish house rules, these are consistently applied and take into account the ages and stages of development of the children attending. The childminder acts as a good role model and encourages good manners at all times, ensuring children have respect for others.

Children are made to feel welcome and as a result, they are settled and very at ease in the childminder's home. The childminder ensures she has comprehensive information on the minded child to ensure individual care needs can be met. Children are encouraged by the childminder to play together, to be kind to each other and value diversity. There is, however, a limited range of resources available to promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are comfortable and at ease in the childminder's home. Space, resources and routine are well organised to ensure children have easy access to the facilities and equipment they need. They can move safely in the home environment and take part in a range of activities, including organised activities, free play and quiet times. The childminder is appropriately qualified and experienced to care for children of various ages and ensures that children are not left alone with anyone who has not been vetted. She has undertaken mandatory training courses, along with other short courses to improve her skills and knowledge. She is interested in further training which will influence her continuing practice for the benefit the children.

All the requirements of the National Standards for documentation and record keeping are met. These include accident and medication records, an attendance register and a complaints log. All necessary parental consents are obtained and her registration certificate and Ofsted's poster

is displayed for parents to see. Information is shared regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care and enables the childminder to meet their child's needs well.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- obtain written permission from all parents to seek emergency medical treatment or advice
- ensure the wine bottles in the kitchen are inaccessible to children
- continue to develop the range of resources that provide children with positive images of cultural diversity and anti-discriminatory practice.

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