

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY365321
Inspection date	02 June 2008
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.

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 2007. She lives with her husband and daughter aged one year, in the residential area of East Boldon in South Tyneside. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding four children. She walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends the local parent and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into suitably clean and well-kept premises where they have sufficient space to play. They access some opportunities for large physical play, including using sit-and-ride toys at the parent and toddler group. Children also enjoy visits to the park where they can access swings and run in the fresh air. Children are active or restful through choice and babies

sleep in-line with their individual needs and parents' and carers' wishes. They are encouraged to enjoy generally healthy snacks and meals. These include ham sandwiches, baked beans and cheese on toast, fruit and yogurt. Children have regular drinks of water, diluted juice or milk, which quenches their thirst and benefits their health. Relevant documentation, which includes information regarding any specific dietary needs, is in place. This positively safeguards children's well-being.

Children are beginning to understand simple health and hygiene practices. They are encouraged to wash their hands or wipe them with an antibacterial wipe before eating their snack and after using the toilet. Although the childminder has not had to record any accidents or the administration of medicines, appropriate documentation is in place. Children do not attend if they are sick, which enables the childminder to protect others from illness. She can respond appropriately if children have an accident as she is trained to administer first aid and has three first aid kits. Parents and carers do not give written permission for the childminder to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Consequently, there is no evidence to ensure their wishes are respected.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are appropriately safeguarded as the childminder's home is secure at all times. This is supplemented with suitable procedures for adults collecting children. Large windows in the living room and glass doors in the dining room enable children to benefit from natural light whilst playing indoors. They are able to explore safely using clean and well-maintained resources. Children participate in activities as furniture and equipment are of an appropriate size, including a low-level table and chairs. Those who go on outings are kept safe as the childminder discusses road safety with them and uses appropriate seats and restraints in the car. However, although parents and carers give verbal consent for their children to travel in a vehicle, they do not give written permission. Consequently, there is no evidence to ensure their wishes are being met.

Children experience suitable levels of supervision and appropriate safety equipment is in place to ensure hazards are reduced. This includes a fireguard, safety gates, electrical socket protectors and smoke detectors. The childminder has generally taken steps to ensure children's safety. Examples of this are where hazardous items are kept out of reach and regular checks are made on babies as they sleep. The childminder states that children do not currently play out in the garden. However, this is an area registered for childcare and the greenhouse has not been made safe. Consequently, children's well-being is compromised. The childminder has covered child protection on the initial childminding training. She demonstrates a suitable understanding of related issues. Consequently, children are adequately 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 playing with toys that make sounds, exploring the ball pool and using construction bricks. They find the resources fun and sufficiently challenging, which helps to develop appropriate levels of concentration. Children benefit from a flexible routine, including a balance of child-centred and adult-led activities. Their self-esteem and a sense of belonging are encouraged as some of their artwork is displayed on the dining room wall. Sufficient support is given, which nurtures children's independence. Examples of this are where

the childminder encourages children to choose the activities they would like to participate in and provides a step for them to reach the sink so they can wash their hands.

Children happily use their imagination as they pretend to make toast with the toy toaster and play with the plastic animals and the ark. They enjoy looking at a range of age-appropriate books, both independently and with the childminder. These include books with different textures for younger children to explore. Children develop mathematical thinking as they use shape sorters and see numbers on posters and in books. Their communication skills are fostered through various activities, including songs and rhymes. This results in appropriate interactions between themselves and the childminder. Children enjoy mark making, which helps to develop their hand-eye coordination. The childminder gives children the opportunity to socialise with others as they visit the local parent and toddler group.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

A suitable induction procedure ensures individual needs are met. Children and their parents and carers can have as many visits as they need to enable them to settle into the new environment. The childminder's appropriate approach to equal opportunities contributes to children's positive attitudes to the wider community. She is currently developing her range of related resources. These currently include a doll, jigsaw and skin tone crayons reflecting different cultures. She also has some sing and sign books. However, there are no other toys showing positive images of people with disabilities. This has a negative impact on raising children's awareness and understanding of difference. The childminder does not have experience of caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities. However, she demonstrates a positive attitude to providing an inclusive environment, as long as she can meet the needs of all the children attending.

The childminder has suitable behaviour management strategies in place to promote children's good behaviour. These take into account children's understanding and maturity. She comforts children and explains why certain words and actions are not acceptable. Consequently, children are encouraged to think about the consequences of their behaviour for themselves and others. Information is shared verbally with parents and carers on a daily basis. This is being complemented with the introduction of written individual files for each child. Consequently, they are informed of the activities their children have participated in, which promotes continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children access play opportunities through the appropriate organisation of space, time and resources. The use of the living room and dining room enables children to play independently or with others. They can also participate in quieter or more boisterous activities. The flexible routine incorporates time to visit different groups, as well as the childminder taking and collecting children from school. Toys are stored at the children's height to promote free choice and independence. The childminder complements this by rotating toys to capture children's interest.

Children benefit from the knowledge gained by the childminder attending the initial training course. Their welfare is appropriately safeguarded as the childminder and other household members have had suitable checks completed. She is aware of her current registration

requirements and adheres to them. This has a positive impact on children's well-being. Documentation for each child is organised well and stored confidentially. Consequently, their privacy is maintained at all times.

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 QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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 parents and carers to gain emergency medical treatment or advice
- ensure the greenhouse is protected
- obtain written permission from parents and carers to transport children in a vehicle
- 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