



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	502395
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 May 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Sheila Iwaskow

<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 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 1996. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 10 and 9 years in Sale, an area of South Manchester.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes. This comprises of the through lounge/dining room and kitchen. Toilet facilities are located on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family has a dog.

There are currently three children on roll. The childminder has worked in a pre-school setting and has a child care qualification. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are comfortable and cared for in a warm, well maintained home where effective hygiene routines are in place to protect children and minimise the risk of cross infection. The childminder is particularly vigilant in areas where the family dog has access. Children are beginning to learn about hygiene and personal care as they are encouraged to wash their hands after toileting and before eating. Simple explanations given by the childminder allow older children to understand the underlying concept of good hygiene routines. Stringent routines are in place for nappy changes. A written sick child policy is in place which excludes children who are ill from the setting. If a child becomes unwell whilst at the childminder's home, they are comforted and parents are contacted straight away. Children receive good levels of care if they have an accident as the childminder has a valid first aid certificate and a well stocked first aid box in place. Babies are able to feed and rest according to their needs, which provides an environment that is secure and consistent with home.

Energetic play opportunities in the childminder's back garden enable children to make good progress in their physical development and skills. Children have fun learning to control their body movement and using their bodies in different ways as they jump on the trampoline and play games with the balls and skipping ropes. Daily walks to and from nursery help children develop a positive attitude towards physical exercise.

Effective procedures are in place to record children's dietary needs, likes, dislikes and parents' preferences regarding food and drink. Drinks are freely available, ensuring that children are well hydrated. Healthy eating is actively promoted within the setting and children enjoy choosing from healthy options, such as apples, grapes, cheese sandwiches and breadsticks. Meal times are relaxed social occasions where everyone sits together and talk about their day. Conventions, such as saying please and thank you, help children understand the importance of good manners. Weekly menus keep parents fully informed of their child's food intake.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children experience a warm and welcoming environment where they have a large amount of space to move around freely and play in comfort. Background music is sometimes played, which helps to develop children's senses and provides a calm and relaxing atmosphere in which they play and learn. The kitchen is decorated with examples of children's art work, giving them a feeling of belonging within the setting. The childminder provides children with a wide range of developmentally appropriate toys which are safe and in good condition. Resources are rotated to maintain stimulation, and those available are stored at child height, allowing children freedom of choice.

Close attention is paid to safety. The childminder supervises the children well, enabling them to play independently and safely. Fire drills are clearly displayed and practised with the children, allowing them to follow clearly defined procedures in the event of a fire or emergency.

evacuation. Written risk assessments are in place which cover all areas of the home and garden and well thought out systems are in place for the safe collection of children. However, the fire place in the lounge is accessible to the children, which compromises children's safety. Children are beginning to learn about personal safety as the childminder explains the importance of holding on to the buggy when walking home from school. A written child protection policy is in place which informs parents of the childminder's legal responsibilities with regard to this aspect of their children's care. The childminder is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and procedures to follow if neglect is suspected, although existing injuries are not recorded.

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

The provision is good.

Babies and young children smile happily and giggle in the childminder's home. The childminder spends every opportunity sitting on the floor interacting with them as they play. Babies freely give the childminder a cuddle and look towards her for support and reassurance. As a result, children are happy, confident and secure in her care.

Babies enjoy investigating a range of toys that are colourful and make sounds. Play materials are laid out attractively on the floor which encourages young children to crawl and grasp, developing their gross and fine motor skills. Young babies thrive on the interaction with the childminder, having fun as she bounces them up and down on her knee. Early communication skills are nurtured and encouraged with natural responses to babies' gestures, facial expressions and playful sounds. Babies are developing a growing ability to negotiate and bargain with the childminder as they cry for a drink from their bottle and to be lifted out of their baby seat. The childminder responds appropriately, letting young children know that she understands. Babies are learning to make connections as they shake a rattle and listen to the noise it makes. They laugh with delight as they press the button on the interactive toy and listen to the music that is played. Young children enjoy exploring different sensory opportunities as they feel the fluffy texture of the interactive duck and explore the contents of treasure baskets and feely boxes.

Young children are beginning to develop a sense of time as they look at pictures of their first day at nursery and of a recent riding lesson. Role play opportunities enable children to develop their own ideas as they dress up as a ghost and make a cup of tea using the tea set. Mathematical concepts are explored as part of the daily routine as children identify the number on the dart board, recognise colours and tell the childminder the age they will be on their next birthday. Early scientific skills are fostered as children plant cucumbers, tomatoes and sunflowers in the garden, recognising that they need warmth, water and food to make them grow. Creative activities stimulate children's imagination and develop their fine motor skills as they make a sheep from egg shells and cotton wool and a Mother's Day card using paper, card and ribbon.

The childminder has a good awareness of the Birth to three matters framework and incorporates well many aspects into her childminding practice.

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

The provision is good.

Opportunities for children to celebrate cultural festivals, taste food from other countries and access a good range of resources that reflect equality of opportunity allow children to appreciate the diversity of the world they live in. Children particularly enjoy finding out about Chinese New Year and going into Manchester to see the "dancing dragons" in China town. Visits to the local shops and trips to the airport enable children to gain an understanding of the different roles that people have within society. The childminder recognises each child's individuality and responds to their individual needs in an appropriate manner. She demonstrates a positive attitude towards children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, understanding that they should be welcomed into a sharing and inclusive environment.

Children are very well behaved. They respond to the high expectations set by the childminder. Children help devise house rules, such as always being kind to each other and remembering to smile. The childminder treats all children with individual care and respect and ensures that minor disagreements are handled using strategies that relevant to the age and development of the child. Children's efforts and achievements are celebrated, which promotes their confidence and self-esteem.

An effective partnership with parents ensures that children are settled and secure. Parents have clear information about the childminder's setting through a comprehensive range of policies and procedures. Written information is exchanged at the end of the day, ensuring that parents are fully informed of all aspects of their children's care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease in the childminder's home. They enjoy the well organised environment where the childminder is enthusiastic, conscientious and knowledgeable, thereby providing them with good quality care. There is a clear timetable in place which facilitates taking and collecting children from a local school and nursery. They enjoy a balanced range of activities which cover all areas of the learning which are organised well within the setting.

Written policies and all legally required documentation for childminding purposes are in place, organised to respect confidentiality and of a high standard. 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 provider agreed to address some issues regarding documentation and behaviour management. Written parental consent to give medication is now in place and the childminder is aware that parents must acknowledge any medication that she gives to the children. Parents are given copy of her behaviour management policy.

These improvements ensure that all aspects of documentation, relating to the continuity of care of the children, are in place and that parents are fully aware of how she manages their child's behaviour.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since April 2004 Ofsted has received one complaint relating to National Standard 11: Behaviour and National Standard 12: Working in partnership with parents and carers. Concerns were raised that the childminder was shouting at a child and that the parents were not being given feedback about their child's care. An Ofsted Early Years childcare inspector visited the provision on 28/11/2005. Evidence collected demonstrated that the National Standards were being met. The provider remains qualified for registration. The complaint is recorded in the childminder's log.

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):

- make the fire place inaccessible to children and ensure existing injuries are recorded.

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)