



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY266435
<b>Inspection date</b>	16 June 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Christine Myerscough
<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 2003. She lives with her husband and three children aged 12, 10 and seven years. They live in a house in the south of Manchester. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. Bathroom facilities are upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding eight children who attend on either a full or part-time basis.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children follow established daily routines which encourage appropriate hygiene practices. They take pride in telling the childminder they have remembered to wash their hands after using the toilet. The childminder maintains very good standards of cleanliness around her home to reduce the risk of cross contamination. A clear sick child policy ensures the best interests of all children are taken into account to help prevent the spread of infection. Whilst on outings the childminder carries her first aid equipment and contact details. This enables her to act quickly if needed to meet children's needs and ensure their welfare. However, children's health is not fully protected as written consent for emergency medical advice or treatment is not in place with parents.

Children benefit from a range of nutritious foods to promote their growth and development. Meals are well balanced to meet their dietary requirements. Children are encouraged to eat the recommended five portions of vegetables or fresh fruit a day. The childminder prepares some homemade meals, for example cottage pie and bolognaise. Children enjoy a variety of snacks, such as toast, yoghurts and cheese and crackers. Regular drinks, which include water, are available in a jug to keep them well refreshed.

Children engage in regular exercise to keep them fit and healthy. They walk to local facilities, such as schools, parks and toddler groups. In poor weather, they organise an energetic indoor activity which they call fun song factory, and love to dance and sing. During the winter months, they enjoy playing in the snow and going on nature walks to observe the wildlife and plants. A weekly trip to an indoor activity based centre provides challenging experiences so children learn to gain control over their bodies and explore their physical capabilities. The childminder's garden provides good opportunities for children to develop their coordination and muscular strength. They have fun on the trampoline and practise their physical skills as they repeatedly climb on the frame. Comfortable furnishings around the childminder's home provide for children's rest and relaxation. This ensures their well-being.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a bright and welcoming environment. This helps them to feel secure and settle in quickly. They play in comfort and move around confidently. The childminder maintains her home and furnishings in a good state of repair and decoration. Toys and equipment are well maintained. Children are encouraged to report any concerns regarding the safety of toys. This helps them to learn to act responsibly regarding safety matters and avoid any dangers.

Appropriate preventative measures minimise the risks of children coming to harm. For example, there is a gate on the living room doorway so children do not gain unsupervised access to the hall and covers in low level sockets. Effective practices and procedures keep children well protected from unwanted entry into the childminder's home. Main doors are kept locked and a visitor's policy indicates that those who are representing an organisation are required to show their credentials. Children are suitably protected whilst being transported in the childminder's

car as the necessary documentation, such as business insurance cover is kept up-to-date. However, a fire blanket is not fully accessible in the kitchen and the position of a wheelbarrow in the childminder's garden poses a potential safety hazard to children.

Good recognition is shown for the need for a balance between freedom and safe limits. The childminder follows and positions herself appropriately as babies enthusiastically crawl around the room, learn to balance and pull themselves up on to furniture. This ensures they do not hurt themselves and allows them to gain confidence as they develop new skills.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy in the childminder's care. They feel secure because the childminder creates a relaxed atmosphere and establishes good relationships with them. She sits on the floor at their level and talks to them as they engage in play. Children are confident in their interactions with her and repeat familiar words and practise new phrases.

Children experience a broad range of activities which promote their overall development. They develop a positive disposition to learning as the childminder plays closely with them and follows their interests. The childminder uses everyday learning opportunities so children become aware of their surroundings. For example, she lifts a baby up to feel the pegs on the washing line and talks to children about the colours of the roses in a neighbour's garden. Babies are confident and curious as they actively explore. They show an eagerness to try new experiences as they splash using their hands in the water. Music and sounds of play materials captivate their interest. They show amazement as they watch pop up toys and successfully drop shapes into the correct holes in the shape sorter.

Children develop an enjoyment of books. They attend story time at the library and the childminder uses different tones in her voice to gain their interest as she reads to them. This builds children's concentration levels as they spend time eagerly pointing to the pictures and identifying the different animals. Children benefit from regular attendance at toddler groups where they play and mix with other adults and children. This helps them to become sociable and broadens their learning experiences. Older children develop their imagination as they dress up and take part in role play activities. They have access to suitable websites on a computer and develop their creativity as they blow paint and draw.

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

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern and the childminder divides her attention well. As a consequence, children feel at ease in their surroundings as they freely select toys, sit on the childminder's knee and enjoy cuddles. They develop a positive view of others and the wider world through storytelling and a range of resources reflecting diversity. For example, children listen intently to stories about other countries and the homes in which people live, such as river boats and apartments. Fascination is shown as they look at the pictures of some children in India who have mosquito nets to cover their beds. During school holidays they visit places of

interest to develop an awareness of the local environment, for example the museum and zoo. Children with a range of needs are well supported and the childminder liaises closely with parents and outside agencies to meet their specific requirements. The use of some sign language helps children with learning difficulties to communicate successfully and express their feelings and wishes.

Parents are made fully aware of the management of children's behaviour. Emphasis is placed on encouraging children to share and play fairly. As a result, they learn to be kind towards others and take turns with toys. Good use of praise supports their efforts and they smile as the childminder tells them how clever they are. Examples of children's creative work are on display on the wall so their experiences can be shared and remembered. This helps children to build a positive self-image and feel good about themselves.

The childminder works effectively with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met. Time is spent chatting together to develop friendly relationships and to enable relevant information to be passed on. Written policies and procedures are shared so parents are fully aware and in agreement about the care practices. This provides consistency and continuity of care for children.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from a good amount of indoor and outdoor space so they can move around freely. The childminder organises the layout of the furniture well so babies can explore their surroundings and reach out for toys with ease. The day is well-planned for children's enjoyment with consistent routines to ensure their well-being. There is a good balance of activities, both in the childminder's home and within the community, to stimulate children's interests and make their day fun.

The childminder demonstrates a strong commitment to her ongoing professional development in order to provide a good standard of care for children. She holds a Cache Level 3 Certificate in Childminding Practice and is completing a National Vocational Qualification Level 3 in Child Care. She also holds a valid first aid certificate to enable her to respond appropriately to children's health needs in the event of an accident. Established links with a Sure Start worker and other local childminders keeps her abreast of current issues in child care so children benefit from up-to-date practices.

Clear procedures are in place to ensure anyone who has not been vetted, such as invited guests to her home, are never left alone with children. Well written policies form an effective plan to ensure children are well cared for and her business runs smoothly.

Documentation is well organised and kept in separate files to ensure confidentiality. Most of the records are in order to maintain a safe and efficient service. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

The last inspection recommended that the childminder re-organise toys, improve fire safety precautions, develop knowledge of child protection issues and obtain written permission from parents regarding administering medication.

A good range of quality toys and equipment are now available to meet children's varying needs. The arrangement of the resources encourages children's free choice and independence. They are well organised in labelled boxes on shelves at child height. Children enjoy selecting and playing with their favourite things, such as the mega sketcher and electronic items. Weekly checks are undertaken to ensure smoke alarms on both levels of the property are in working order to keep children free from harm. Children become familiar with safe practices as they take part in emergency evacuation procedures on a regular basis. The childminder has updated her training on child protection and has covered a range of aspects, such as identifying signs and symptoms of concern, her duties about keeping factual records and informing relevant agencies. This has improved her knowledge about the procedures to follow so children's welfare is safeguarded. Parents are made fully aware of her role through a written child protection policy and sign to state they have read and understood her responsibilities. An administration of medication policy outlines the procedures that parents and the childminder must follow if medication is given to children. This keeps children safe.

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

Since the last inspection Ofsted has received concerns regarding National Standard 1 - Suitable Person. The concerns were originally shared with another agency. An Ofsted early years childcare inspector then conducted a visit to the provision on 16/12/2005. Ofsted are satisfied that the childminder remains qualified for registration.

The childminder 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):

- obtain written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment

- ensure the wheelbarrow does not pose a safety hazard to children and re-position the fire blanket so it is accessible in the kitchen.

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)