



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	316118
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 July 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Susan Magaret Lyon
<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 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 1990 to care for four children. She lives with her husband and adult son in a semi-detached house in Rochdale. The rooms and areas of the house used for childminding are the lounge, kitchen, upstairs bathroom and back garden. There are no pets in the household. The childminder provides an out of school service from local primary schools and playgroups. There are currently five children on roll, some attend part time.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn the importance of personal hygiene through satisfactory daily routines, such as washing hands after toileting and before food. They are adequately protected from infection through an exclusion policy which is explained to parents. The home is clean and hygienic and

children become aware of healthy practices through the use of disposable wipes and the availability of tissues.

Children are nourished through healthy meals and snacks, for example, a variety of fresh fruit is provided daily. Their individual dietary needs are adequately met through discussions with parents regarding allergies and intolerances. Drinks are readily available for children throughout the day, improving their health and well-being. Children learn the importance of healthy eating through some discussion about foods that are good for them.

Children stay healthy through walking to and from school daily, and playing in the garden using a range of age-appropriate equipment, for example, balls, tents and prams. Children rest and sleep according to their needs, contributing to their health and well-being.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Space and resources are adequately organised to allow children to move around freely and safely. The play areas are bright, welcoming and child centred. Children are cared for in a mainly safe and secure environment, although hazards in the garden and kitchen put children at risk of accidents. Children use suitable, safe toys and equipment. They are kept safe on outings because the childminder has put satisfactory safety measures in place, such as using reins and harnesses. Children learn to keep themselves safe through discussions about road safety and playing safely.

The childminder keeps children safe through close supervision. Her awareness of fire precautions contribute to children's safety whilst on the premises. Children are adequately protected because the childminder has an understanding of her role in child protection and appropriate procedures to follow if needed.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem through the childminder giving them lots of praise for effort and achievement. They engage in an appropriate range of play activities to foster their development and progress. Children acquire new knowledge and skills through the childminder talking to them about colours and numbers during daily activities, such as counting cars whilst out and about.

Children are encouraged to make positive relationships through discussions about being kind and helpful to one another. They are freely able to make choices in their play and pursue their interests, such as selecting a favourite toy. Children are happy and settled through enjoying positive relationships with each other and the childminder providing close supervision. Resources are organised to help children become independent learners. Through an adequate range of art and craft materials children develop their imagination and creativity, thus promoting their sense of achievement and enjoyment through, for example, making pictures and models to take home.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel a sense of belonging through a trusting and secure relationship with the childminder. They are valued and made to feel important through the childminder giving them individual care and attention. They begin to be aware of the needs of others through the childminder encouraging them to be sensitive to the needs of the younger children. However, children lack opportunities to develop their awareness of the wider world through limited play resources and activities.

The childminder adequately ensures all children are fully included in the life of the setting through changing or adapting the way play is provided to suit all levels of ability. She works closely with parents to ensure children's individual needs are sufficiently met, for example, recording children's details and obtaining signed consent forms.

Children behave well and begin to understand responsible behaviour through clear boundaries and explanations. Their care is enhanced through the daily exchange of appropriate written and verbal information regarding their progress and welfare.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are adequately protected through the childminder's awareness of the vetting of household members. She maintains appropriate ratios, thus improving the safety of children. The childminder organises time, space and resources sufficiently well to meet children's needs.

Children benefit from visits to facilities in the local community, for example, attending adult and toddler groups and enjoying walks to look at trains and barges. Their care and well-being is enhanced through the childminder's commitment to broadening her knowledge and skills through further training, such as the Birth to three matters framework and child protection. All required documentation is up to date and kept confidential. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop her knowledge of child protection procedures, follow procedures for completing medication records and make safe a hazardous item in the kitchen cupboard. The childminder has attended child protection training and obtained all necessary information regarding procedures. She maintains satisfactory records regarding administering medication and obtains parents' signatures, and has removed the hazard from the kitchen cupboard. These improvements further enhance the care and safety of children attending the setting.

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

There are no complaints to report. 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):

- ensure play equipment is used safely in the garden
- make sharp knives safe or inaccessible in the kitchen
- increase play resources reflecting equal opportunities.

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)