



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	316158
<b>Inspection date</b>	30 August 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Marina Anna Howarth
<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 outstanding. 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 1994. She lives with her partner and daughter aged sixteen years in Norden, near Rochdale. The whole ground floor is used for childminding, with toilet facilities located on the first floor, sleeping and resting are accommodated in the second and third bedroom and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time. She is currently minding two children under five years during the day and six children over five years, before and after school and in the school holidays. She walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group and takes children to the local library and park. The childminder does not offer overnight care. The childminder holds an NVQ Level 3 qualification in Early Years Childcare.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive because the childminder has a highly effective approach to health and hygiene. Detailed procedures and documents are in place to ensure that children's individual needs are very well met. Accident and medication records are in place where appropriate treatment is given and parent's signatures and consents have been obtained. Children learn about the importance of being healthy as the childminder is an excellent role model to the children on hygiene practices. For example, they know to wash their hands after using the toilet, playing in the garden and before food and they learn about germs as they talk about why they keep themselves clean. The childminder actively reduces the risk of cross infection by ensuring her home is always clean and well maintained. Disposable wipes and paper towels are used with character soap dispensers, along with gentle prompting from the childminder, this ensures hygiene routines are a fun part of the daily routine.

Physical activity and opportunities for daily fresh air is highly regarded and children are able to develop their physical skills in a wide range of activities. They enjoy daily walks and activities in the garden, such as football, skipping, bats and balls. They ride on bikes and scooters and use various apparatus at the local park. They go swimming and learn about the environment and animals by visiting local Nature Reserves and the bird sanctuary. Children are content, alert and well rested as facilities are provided to enable them to rest when they need to without being disrupted. Other children are made aware and respect each others needs for resting quietly. For example, as one child accesses the toilet he states "I will be very quiet and not wake the baby"

Children are clearly aware of good nutrition and understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They enjoy an excellent range of fresh food prepared by the childminder for all their snacks and meals. A menu is followed and rotated which is displayed for parent's to view. Children are encouraged to take an active part in the preparation of food and they are given choices. For example, children make their own pizza for lunch, they have a wide variety of ingredients such as assorted peppers, mushrooms, a variety of cheese, sweet corn, tuna, ham, tomato and fresh herbs. Children are being educated about healthy eating in a fun and stimulating way. For example, they collect pictures of different food types to make a large collage of a "food pyramid" which incorporates discussions about food types that are good and bad for you. Food is also used in a creative way such as printing with vegetables and fruit. The childminder is happy and confident to meet individual dietary requirements of which she has obtained clear information from parent's. She works in close partnership with parent's to ensure that these requirements are met.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a safe, warm and welcoming environment. The childminder has an excellent understanding of safety issues, children have space to move around safely and independently as she minimises the risks to keep them free from harm. Children learn about

their own and others safety through following the excellent practice of the childminder who is an exceptional role model. Children are involved in regular and recorded fire drills and fire safety discussions. For example, they enjoyed a visit to the fire service where they were able to climb aboard a fire engine and talk to fire fighters.

All children have access to a superb range of quality toys and resources which are suitable for their ages and stages of development. Resources have been carefully selected to support children's play and are checked on a regular basis for hygiene and safety. All children readily help themselves from the highly organised selection of interesting play equipment so they can pursue their own interests.

Children are protected from harm through the childminder's precise knowledge of child protection issues. The children's protection is paramount to the childminder whose extreme dedication and commitment to ongoing training and further personal development ensures this.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's enjoyment and achievements at the setting are greatly promoted through the excellent documentation in place, including many photographs of the children, daily diaries detailing experiences and achievements and beautiful displays of the children's own artwork.

The childminder has an exceptional understanding of child development which enables her to offer flexible, high quality care, which is suited to each child. Children enjoy participating in an extensive range of activities, which contributes to their creativity and imagination. For example, making pizzas, painting, conducting observations through binoculars, model making, studying insects and making habitats and playing with puppets. They participate in the celebration of different festivals and are given opportunities to taste foods from different cultures. Children are able to demonstrate what they know as the childminder uses skilful questioning to make them think.

Children display high levels of confidence in their daily activities and are developing very good independent skills, as they busy themselves and become absorbed in activities and talk about what they are doing. For example, child requests the modelling clay and makes a model of a fish. Other children are observing and also join in, an assortment of fish and penguins are created out of the modelling clay. One child asks for a glass and proceeds to place sand in the bottom, the glass is then filled with water and the model set inside. Children express delight at the finished result and more children join in. The childminder enables the children to continue the activity by providing more glasses and acknowledging their achievements.

Children develop a huge amount of confidence and positive self-esteem through the excellent interaction, care, love and attention they receive from the childminder. Children are greatly valued and treated with trust, concern and respect from the childminder who has a wonderful manner and overwhelming warmth. Children thrive in the fabulous, child centred, homely environment. All children are welcomed with open arms, they are able to express themselves through various means, they are listened to and valued. For example, they have made a

"suggestion" box where older children write down their requests and this is discussed, toys are located in every accessible room which are easily accessed by younger children.

Children flourish through the stimulating and purposeful activities and experiences. Children's play is promoted through the childminder's infectious enthusiasm and passion for having fun and laughter is a prominent feature of the house. Children enjoy and want to be at the setting. For example, when individual children are asked what they like about coming to the childminder's an enthusiastic "everything" is the response.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's sense of belonging is fully embraced through the warm, welcoming and relaxed atmosphere and the childminder's overwhelming commitment and dedication to their care. Children's awareness and understanding of the diverse community is promoted exceptionally well. For example, the resources, activities and discussions which take place display care, respect and admiration for others and their equality.

Behaviour within the setting is consistently of a high standard as children of all ages have a mature understanding of right and wrong. Children have been encouraged to set their own boundaries which are discussed and displayed and reviewed on a regular basis. As a result children have respect for the boundaries and are willing to abide by them. Children have expressed themselves through drawings. For example, one child has drawn a picture of two figures, one is illustrated pulling the other's ears, a statement reads "do not pull peoples ears" Children play very happily together in the childminder's care, they learn to share and take turns as the childminder uses her effective skills to encourage and help them develop their relationships with one another.

The excellent partnerships with parents and carers contributes significantly to the children's care and well-being. The childminder provides detailed information about the service that she provides including her clear, well written policies and daily routines. She has obtained colourful child focused daily diaries which are used for recording information on a daily basis. Parent's are welcomed into the childminder's home and opinions shared at the initial visit. This relationship continues to thrive and develop and ongoing communication is given paramount importance. As a result children's care, well-being and development is greatly enhanced.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care is greatly promoted through the detailed documentation with regard to the outstanding organisation of the childminder. She continues to review and develop her policies and procedures to improve her practice further and reflect changes to the National Standards.

The childminder's portfolio evidences her commitment to providing good quality care for the children. In addition to the extensive and well written policies and procedures, which are a true representation of the first rate practice of the childminder, it includes many certificates from

additional training courses attended. All necessary documentation is completed correctly, is up to date, reviewed regularly and is well organised.

Children's space is organised in a highly effective manner and all resources meet the children's requirements. Individual needs are extensively met through the childminder's attention to each child's routines and requirements. For example, trips and outings are planned or spontaneous to ensure that children's needs are complied with.

Children's care is fully promoted and they benefit through the sound, close relationship she shares with parent's.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of the children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection one recommendation was raised for the childminder to extend and develop the amount of resources and activities that promote positive images of society.

The childminder has effectively extended the amount of resources and activities that promote positive images of society. Children demonstrate awareness and understanding of others through purposeful play with the resources and through effective discussion with the childminder. As a result children's awareness of the diverse community is promoted exceptionally well.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted.

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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)