



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY333080
<b>Inspection date</b>	02 October 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 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 2006. She lives with her five children aged 14, 11, nine, five and three years. They live in a house in the south of Manchester. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. There are currently three children on roll.

The family has a rabbit and guinea pigs. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She is a qualified nursery nurse and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

In the main, appropriate health and hygiene practices reduce the risk of cross infection. For example, babies are placed on a mat for nappy changing and the childminder discourages children from sharing their drinking cups. Children are encouraged to wash their hands at suitable times in the day, such as before eating and after playing in the garden. However, children's health is not fully protected as some of the toys and areas within the childminder's home are not maintained to a good level of cleanliness. Written consent from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for children is also not in place.

Children develop healthy eating habits which promote their growth and development. The childminder prepares homemade meals; for example, vegetable soup, cottage pie and macaroni cheese. Children enjoy fresh fruit and vegetables, which are on offer on a daily basis. They keep well refreshed as their drinks, such as fresh juice and water, are accessible to them at all times. Parents' wishes are fully respected and taken into account to meet children's individual and cultural requirements.

Children take part in a range of activities which contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They benefit from a good amount of fresh air and exercise as they walk to school every day and visit local parks with a range of equipment. Playing outdoors in the childminder's garden provides good opportunities for children to build their confidence and develop their physical skills as they push trolleys and ride in vehicles. Trips to an indoor activity centre also provides challenging experiences as children jump into ball pools and learn to climb.

Children's well-being is assured. The childminder is attentive to their needs, such as changing clothing if necessary to help children feel more comfortable. Good recognition of how their behaviour changes when they are feeling tired helps to ensure they sleep according to their needs.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have a sufficient amount of space to play their games comfortably as the layout of the furniture is effectively organised. They move around without the worry of hurting themselves. The childminder is suitably equipped to meet children's needs, and resources are stored at child height to enable them to make decisions about their play. Links are made with a toy library to provide extra choice and stimulate children's interests.

Generally good practices and measures reduce potential hazards and minimise the risk of children coming to harm. For example, a gate prevents children gaining access to the stairs and there are locks on low-level cupboards where cleaning products are stored. Yearly checks are undertaken to ensure gas appliances conform to safety standards. There are smoke detectors on both levels of the property and the childminder has devised an evacuation plan in the case of an emergency. However, a fire blanket is not fully accessible in the kitchen and children do

not practise evacuation procedures to help them become familiar with safe practices. Effective security arrangements protect children from unwanted entry into her home. Main doors are kept locked at all times and keys are kept accessible.

Children avoid dangers when outdoors. They are transported in their buggy and the childminder ensures they are securely fastened in. Children also wear reins or wrist straps to enable everyone to stay close together as they walk along the pavement. Road safety issues are discussed so children learn how to keep themselves safe.

Children's welfare is safeguarded. The childminder has a clear understanding about her role in the event of identifying a concern. Child protection procedures are shared with parents so they are aware of her responsibilities.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well nurtured through soothing words and cuddles to provide reassurance and increase their sense of trust. As a result, they settle in quickly into the childminder's company and home. Their communication skills are well supported. They listen intently to rhymes, develop particular favourites and join in with the actions. Regular storytelling promotes children's understanding and visits to the library help children to develop an enjoyment of books. Music captivates their interest and they confidently express themselves through dance.

Children play purposefully and show interest in what they do. A good range of activities stimulates their curiosity and fosters their learning well. Good emphasis is placed on encouraging children's creativity as they play with dough, place toppings on the pizza and paint their hands to make prints. They enjoy collecting foliage to create their collage and playing with sand and water encourages them to explore and investigate using their senses. Children demonstrate fascination and develop enquiring minds as they ask many questions about pine cones. They benefit from regular attendance at toddler groups where they can meet and play with other children. This broadens their learning experiences and helps them to become confident, independent and sociable.

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

The provision is good.

All children are respected as individuals and treated with equal concern. The childminder creates an environment so everyone feels valued and displays a welcome poster in different languages in the hall. Good quality resources, such as multi-cultural books and ethnic dolls, are available to increase children's awareness of diversity and help them to value others. The childminder has experience of caring for children with a range of needs and has a positive attitude towards inclusion. She recognises the importance of working closely with parents and outside agencies to meet children's specific requirements.

Parents are made aware of the management of children's behaviour through discussion and the childminder's policy document. Children behave well. The childminder sets a good example and children respond positively to plenty of encouragement to help them understand right

from wrong. They learn to be kind, take turns and act responsibly as they tidy away toys after use. Children develop a sense of pride as their pictures are on display and they take home their creations to share with their families. A folder is kept of their 'best' work so their experiences and achievements can be remembered and celebrated.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the childminder builds with parents. A flexible service is on offer and time is spent chatting together to ensure a good amount of information is shared. A daily diary system also keeps parents well informed regarding their child's welfare to provide consistency of care. The childminder takes photographs of children at play to reassure parents that they are enjoying a good time. Information about the service is available through written policies and procedures so parents are fully aware of the care practices.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has completed an Introduction to Childminding Practice course and gained a certificate in first aid to enable her to administer treatment if necessary, to maintain children's health. She has a commitment to the continuous improvement of her childminding practice and attends additional training to broaden her knowledge and skills in child care. Membership of the National Childminding Association and regular discussions with other childminders also keeps her abreast of current issues to ensure outcomes for children are positive.

The day is suitably organised around children's individual needs so they have time to rest and be active. This helps them to feel secure. There is good balance of activities, both in the childminders home and within the local community, to provide for children's enjoyment. Records and documentation are well-organised. In the main, they are in order to provide a safe and efficient service to promote children's well-being. Policies and procedures are used effectively to ensure the smooth running of the childminder's business. The childminder shows parents references from previous employers to provide extra reassurance in confirming her suitability to care for children. 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 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):

- keep toys and all areas of the premises clean
- obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure the fire blanket is accessible in the kitchen and practise emergency evacuation procedures with children.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)