



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	315383
<b>Inspection date</b>	03 May 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Chris Scully

<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.
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### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1995. She lives with her husband and two adult children. The childminder lives in an extended semi-detached property which is situated on a large private housing estate just outside Rainhill village in Knowsley. Children have access to the ground floor of the property. An enclosed garden is available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years. There are currently five children on roll aged between one and seven years. Children attend a variety of sessions through out the week. The childminder walks to local

schools to take and collect children three minded children are cared for before and after school.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean environment where they learn the importance of good personal hygiene. Older children learn the importance of washing their hands before meals and after going to the toilet. Effective systems are in place to enable younger children learn about good hygiene practices. Good systems are in place to minimise the risk of cross infection and enhance the children's health and well being.

Children freely access their drinks. Toddlers show good levels of independence by holding their own bottles and choosing where to have their drink. The childminder is attentive to the needs of younger children and supports them well. Babies are held whilst being fed providing comfort and reassurances to them. Children enjoy a range of healthy and nutritious meals and snacks that effectively supports their health and well being. Children sit together at mealtimes and enjoy a relaxed social occasion. Effective systems and records enable the childminder to meet all of the children's dietary needs providing them with a healthy and balanced diet.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, safe and well maintained environment where effective steps have been taken to minimise potential risks. This enables babies and children move safely and confidently around the setting. The childminder talks to children about road safety. This means the children understand the need to be safe out doors such as when walking to school and crossing the roads safely. Children enjoy access to a safe enclosed out door play area where they can explore and develop their physical skills. Children are effectively supervised to maintain their safety and to enable them to develop their independence skills.

Babies and toddlers confidently select their own toys and equipment from a range of resources that are stored in child height furniture. The range of quality age appropriate resources help children to make progress in all areas of their development.

The childminder has effective procedures in place such as first aid and emergency evacuation procedures to maintain children's safety and well being. Babies are supervised well to keep them safe whilst sleeping. The childminder has an understanding of child protection issues and the signs of possible abuse or neglect but is not secure in her understanding of the current guidance.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children and babies settle well at the childminder's house. Babies and toddlers actively seek the childminder for comfort when they are distressed and quickly settle after cuddles. They relate well to one another and play effectively alongside each other. Babies and toddlers are confident to select their toys and play activities. They happily open cupboard doors to find their toys. However there is a lack of natural resources available to extend children's investigative skills. Children enjoy listening to songs and stories. Babies enjoy a range of free play activities.

The childminder is aware of Birth to Three Matters but has not yet implemented this to extend the learning opportunities for children. Babies and children have developed good relationships with the childminder's family that enables them to feel safe and secure in their company. Toddlers shout gleefully to family members for their attention with family members rewarded with big smiles.

Children are engaged in a range of age appropriate purposeful activities that promote their development. They enjoy regular trips to the park and outdoor play activities that extend their learning opportunities. Children enjoy good levels of interaction and support from the childminder that enables them to feel safe and secure in their environment. The childminder spends time talking to and listening to children and values their opinions.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their individual needs are met well through daily routines. The childminder knows the children well. Effective systems for gathering information about the children's individual needs ensure these are well met. Parents' comments are valued by the childminder and used to improve upon the quality of care.

Babies and toddlers play well together they receive appropriate support from the childminder when distressed or unsure in their surroundings. Babies and toddlers are happy and relaxed in the childminder's care. Children learn the importance of turn taking and sharing through every day activities.

Clear house rules and safe boundaries enable them to feel safe and secure. They are well behaved and respond well to the childminder's requests. Children have access to a limited range of resources depicting positive images of race and culture. This means children have limited opportunities to learn about the world in which we live in every day activities.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The well organised environment and daily routines effectively contribute to children being relaxed happy and feeling safe. Babies and toddlers are confident to move around freely and to be in the company of strangers such as the Childcare Inspector.

Policies and procedures are used well to promote the children's welfare care and safety. Information is exchanged on a daily basis with the parents and carers to ensure appropriate care is provided to all children and to discuss the children's achievements. This actively contributes to the continuity in the children's care such as maintaining children's sleep routines.

Daily routines are effective and planned to meet the needs of the children attending. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children attending.

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

The childminder has improved upon the safety and well being of the children by addressing the issues raised in the last report. This includes the safe storage of all hazardous materials, implementation of a fire evacuation procedure and removal of all building materials from the garden.

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

There are no complaints to report.

## **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):

- attend a child protection course to further extend your knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.
- further encourage children to learn about diversity to develop an understanding of the world in which we live.
- consider using a framework like Birth to Three Matters to further extend younger children's learning opportunities.

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)