

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 500380  
**Inspection date** 01 May 2007  
**Inspector** Carol Ann Dixon

**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** 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 has been registered since 2000. She lives in the Moston district of Manchester, with her partner and their five children. Children have access to all rooms on the ground floor. The enclosed rear garden is used for outdoor and physical play activities. Children can be taken to and collected from local schools. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children and is currently minding three children. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have lots of opportunities to participate in physical play activities and are making good progress in their physical development. They enjoy playing in the garden and walks round the local neighbourhood. Bouncing on the trampoline and playing on the slide in the garden are most popular with the children. Babies use the furniture for support whilst they practise walking indoors. Older children enjoy games, such as cricket and football. These activities provide children with plenty of fresh air and exercise and are supportive of a healthy lifestyle.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean home. Effective hygiene procedures and routines are implemented to protect them from illness. Anti-bacterial disinfectants are used to keep the nappy changing mat, surfaces, toys and equipment clean. The childminder has current training in administering first aid.

Children enjoy a varied and nutritious diet that includes plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables. Individual dietary requirements and preferences are agreed with parents, and are well catered for by the childminder. Fresh drinking water is readily available for children to keep them hydrated. The childminder recognises the importance of respecting young children's individual routines with regard to meal and sleep times.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure and well-maintained home. The childminder has identified potential risks and put effective safety precautions in place to minimise them. Cleaning fluids and sharp knives are kept in locked cupboards and a stair gate, fire guards and plug socket covers are in place. Effective fire precautions and procedures are in place. A fire blanket is provided and smoke detectors are fitted on every level of the house. However, the childminder has not considered how to raise children's understanding of fire safety issues to enable them to evacuate the premises in an emergency.

Children are kept safe and protected from accidents because the childminder is diligent in her supervision of them. She constantly and directly monitors them at all times and frequently checks them when they are asleep. Children choose what to play with from a wide range of safe, good quality, age appropriate toys and equipment. The well-being, safety and protection of children are given priority by the childminder. She has a sound knowledge of child protection procedures and knows what to do should she have concerns about a child's welfare.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are well met by the childminder, as a result they are happy and content in her care. The childminding day is planned to provide a well balanced range of activities inside and outside the home that stimulate the children's interest and development. The childminder constantly talks to children about what they are doing, she sings songs and reads stories to them. Babies respond to her by smiling, gurgling and clapping hands.

Babies enjoy exploring and playing with musical toys and activity centres. They eagerly press the different buttons and bang excitedly on the toy telephone. Children have some opportunities to explore sensory, creative and messy materials, however, access to these activities is not frequent enough. Children enjoy looking at books and baking buns and cakes. Older children are learning to play cooperatively, they take turns as they understand that only two children at a time may play on the trampoline.

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

The provision is good.

Children have access to a good range of resources that provide positive images of gender, culture and disability. They occasionally participate in activities that help them learn about

their own religious and cultural beliefs. However, there are not sufficient planned activities available to help children learn about diversity and the wider world.

Positive methods are used to promote good and manage challenging behaviour. The childminder keeps children busy and skilfully supports them to take turns and share the most popular toys. Children are responsive to the praise and encouragement they receive and behave well. The childminder works in partnership with parents to ensure continuity of care for children. She takes positive steps to ensure they are kept well informed about all relevant policies and procedures. Daily discussions and a written record keep parents up to date about their child's day, progress and any issues.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised and caring home. The childminder has good relationships with the children and organises her day so she is able to give them lots of support, encouragement and attention. The home routine of babies is followed to help them settle and to ensure continuity of care. Children confidently explore their surroundings and choose what to play with from the easily accessible toys and activities. All childminding records and documentation are in place, and most are well maintained. However, there are some omissions in medication recordings. The childminder has attended all the required training courses to help her develop her childminding skills.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop the range of resources that reflect diversity, this has been addressed and children now have access to a good range of equipment which portrays positive images. The childminder was also recommended to provide suitable equipment for babies and obtain parental consent for emergency medical treatment and the administration of medication. These have been fully implemented ensuring continuity of care for children and an effective partnership with parents.

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

Since the last inspection 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 all 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):

- consider how to raise children's understanding of fire safety issues
- provide children with access to a wider range of sensory, messy and creative play activities
- further develop the range of activities that help children learn about wider society
- ensure that medication records are appropriately detailed.

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)