

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	503598
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 May 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Susan Elaine Heap
<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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2001. She lives with her husband and adult son in Castleton, Rochdale. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and the small bedroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. A maximum of three children may attend at any one time. There are two children on roll. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties. The childminder transports children by car to local schools to collect children. She takes children to the local park. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and well-maintained environment. The childminder has regular cleaning routines in place to ensure her home and toys are kept clean, which minimises the risk of infection. Children are learning the importance of good hygiene and personal care and know to wash their hands after visiting the bathroom or before they have their evening meal. The childminder has an understanding of how to record first aid and medication, and emergency contact numbers are available which helps to promote children's health and welfare.

The childminder ensures children are appropriately nourished by working in partnership with parents and having knowledge of their dietary requirements. For example, children eat a healthy and nutritious homemade meal each evening and sit with the family. Children talk about how they enjoy their food and particularly the spaghetti Bolognese they had last night. They know when they need refreshment and help themselves to their own cup of juice, and drinking water is freely available.

Children have daily opportunities to enjoy physical exercise either in the front or back garden or during visits to the park on the way home from school. Children enjoy watching a television programme which encourages them to take part in physical activities. Children enthusiastically join in the dancing and exercises with the television presenter. All these are enjoyable and contribute to children's good health.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well-maintained home and where their safety is given priority. This means that children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder ensures safety equipment is available to suit children's age and stage of development and is particularly mindful of their safety when her daughter brings her dog. For example, the dog stays in the garden when children are eating or in the kitchen with a safety gate in place to prevent access to the children's play area. Children are learning to keep themselves safe through their discussions with the childminder and the boundaries which are in the home to protect them. For example, they talk about road safety on the way home from school.

There is an adequate range of toys and equipment which are maintained in good condition and suitable to the children's age and stage of development which children can access independently.

Children are protected because the childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure that their welfare is safeguarded and promoted. She has an understanding of her role within child protection and knows to follow the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures should she have any concerns.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, relaxed and settled in the childminder's home. She spends time talking with the children, giving them praise and encouragement, which results in children developing their self-esteem and confidence, and increases their sense of belonging. As a result, they have formed sound relationships with the childminder and the childminder's family; for example, children talk about how they enjoy playing with the childminder's granddaughter.

The childminder only minds children for after-school care and, although children are in the childminder's home for a short time, they are interested and involved in their activities. They make choices in their play and often concentrate for long periods. Discussion with children shows that they enjoy colouring, dressing up or playing at hairdressers.

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

The provision is inadequate.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and the childminder strives to meet their individual needs through working in partnership with parents. Information with parents is exchanged verbally on a daily basis and basic documentation, such as contracts and consent forms, are in place. However, the childminder has no knowledge or understanding of the recent changes to legislation regarding the process to follow should a parent wish to make a complaint and has no systems in place to record this.

Children are able to make independent choices in their play and have access to toys and equipment without any gender bias. They have some opportunities to access the local community as they occasionally visit the park on the way home from school.

Children behave well as the childminder consistently gives explanations or reminders to them about what is right and wrong. They have a clear understanding of the childminder's simple house rules, such as not going into the kitchen when the childminder is cooking the evening meal. Good manners are positively encouraged and children often say 'please' and 'thank you' without any prompting.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

Suitable use of space and resources ensures that children are confident to explore their surroundings and to initiate their own play if they wish. The childminder limits the number of children she cares for at any one time. As a result, children receive good levels of adult support and attention.

Most of the documentation required by the National Standards and records are in place; however, some lack sufficient detail. For example, the attendance register is not complete and up to date. In addition, the childminder does not have a current first aid certificate, which is a breach of regulations, and she has not displayed her certificate of registration. She shows understanding of the procedures to follow to satisfactorily promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The childminder was asked to: develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues; ensure that children's record of attendance is kept up to date and includes the times of attendance; and obtain written permission from parents for transporting children in a vehicle and seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder now has a copy of the local authority child protection procedures and understands who to contact should she have any concerns about a child in her care. Written permission from parents for transporting children in a vehicle and seeking emergency medical advice or treatment is now in place. These have improved outcomes for children's care, safety and welfare and partnership with parents. However, children's record of attendance is not complete and up to date and an action has been raised following this inspection as this is a breach of regulations.

## Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- display the certificate of registration at all times when minded children are present
- ensure records of children's attendance are maintained and kept up to date at all times
- improve knowledge and understanding and develop systems for the recording of complaints, in line with regulations.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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)