

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY256676
<b>Inspection date</b>	31 May 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Carol Ann Dixon
<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 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 May 2003. She lives with her husband and their adult daughter and two sons aged 14 and 15 years. They live in the Blackley area of Manchester close to shops, parks and the library. The family have two pet dogs.

The children have access to the sitting room, conservatory, hallway and supervised access to the kitchen. The bathroom facilities are on the first floor. Both the front and rear gardens, which are safe and secure, are available for outdoor play.

The childminder is currently caring for five children during the week, four of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder's mother occasionally works with her as an assistant.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and she gains support from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children thrive because the childminder follows effective procedures and practices which promote their physical, nutritional and health needs. They are cared for in a warm and spotlessly clean home, where they receive good support and guidance from the childminder. Children are gaining an understanding of good hygiene and a real desire to become increasingly independent in their personal care. For example, the childminder encourages younger children to clean their teeth and wash their hands before snacks to help them to understand and learn about good hygiene practice. Children delight in visits to local parks and outdoor activities which provide them with plenty of fresh air and exercise; as a result they learn how exercise keeps them healthy.

Children's health is promoted as drinks are readily available for children. Children receive a varied and nutritious diet that includes fresh fruit and vegetables. They enjoy the varied fruits in fresh fruit salad for their morning snack. Excellent partnerships with parents ensure children are encouraged to eat a balanced diet, try new foods and choose healthy options. Children's dietary requirements and preferences are well catered for. The importance of adopting healthy lifestyles is effectively promoted through discussions about healthy foods. Consequently, children are becoming increasingly aware of how to look after themselves and the benefits of healthy eating.

Caring relationships are well established and younger children are nurtured through cuddles, words, smiles and eye contact. The childminder ensures they have consistent routines and their own meal and sleeping patterns are followed. Consequently, they thrive within the environment, feel secure and their health and emotional well-being is secured.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and well maintained home where individual coat hooks help to provide them with a sense of belonging. The childminder is extremely vigilant, she has clearly identified potential risks and put in place effective safety precautions to minimise them. Children practice the emergency evacuation plan; this increases their awareness of responsibilities and what to do in an emergency.

The lounge and conservatory are safe, thereby allowing children to choose and have freedom of movement where they can relax in comfort or engage in more energetic play. Children are cared for using suitable high quality equipment so that significant parts of their daily routine, such as eating and sleeping, are safely catered for. Space is organised effectively to promote their growing independence and to facilitate all kinds of play experiences, such as art and craft activities, sand and water play.

Children are actively involved in organising their environment. They adhere to simple rules, such as helping tidy up, walking inside and not climbing on furniture. The childminder has a good understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits. Children's safety is of great importance to the childminder who has up to date knowledge of first aid practice. Activities, discussions and stories on safety issues, such as road safety and strangers successfully reinforce the importance of children looking after themselves.

Children choose what to play with from a broad range of safe, high quality, age-appropriate toys and equipment. This promotes their confidence, ability to make choices and become independent. Children are well supervised by the childminder. She ensures that children choose resources appropriate for their age and stage of development. Children are well protected by the childminder who has a clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures and gives utmost priority to their welfare.

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

The provision is good.

Children are content and happy at the childminder's home, where there is lots of activity and chattering as they play and learn. Younger children build upon their natural curiosity as learners as the childminder provides them with resources, such as treasure baskets which they love to explore the contents of. Children are able to express themselves through a variety of media, such as painting, playdough and mark making with different materials. The childminder offers good levels of care and attention and uses her understanding of early years guidance, such as 'Birth to three matters' to provide interesting experiences for all children.

The childminder has recently started to monitor children's progress and development. This ensures children are challenged and make good progress in all areas of development. Their day is organised to provide a good range of activities which stimulate their interest. Children eagerly build models with construction equipment and play with imaginative toys. They enjoy taking the dolls for a walk in the prams. They delight in exploring a wide range of activities, which contribute to their creativity, such as sand and water play. Children are confident and settled and enjoy choosing their favourite toys and equipment. Rolling out the playdough and using the various cutters is a firm favourite with the children and captivates their attention as they all play together at the table.

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

The provision is good.

Children have opportunities to learn about themselves, each other and the world around them as they have access to a range of books and equipment that provide positive images. However, they do not participate in any planned activities that help them learn about the religious and cultural beliefs of others. They delight in learning about their local community and visit lots of places of interest, such as museums, as well as regular visits to toddler groups and local parks. These outings provide them with an extensive range of exciting and enjoyable learning experiences.

The childminder has high expectations of children and supports them to take responsibility for their behaviour. They respond to meaningful praise and the recognition they receive for positive behaviour and are well behaved. Children are valued as individuals and treated with equal concern. All children are fully included and supported by the childminder who works closely with parents to ensure children's needs are met. An excellent partnership with parents contributes significantly to their well-being. The childminder actively seeks parents' views about their children's needs and interests before the child starts and on a regular basis throughout their attendance. The childminder keeps parents fully informed on how their children are progressing and developing.

The childminder works hard to create a stimulating, child-friendly environment for children. This contributes to the warm, welcoming, homely environment that all children experience.

Information relating to the individual needs of children is obtained from parents. The childminder uses this information and follows parents' wishes with regard to daily routines for younger children, thus ensuring continuity of care between home and the setting.

Children benefit from the effective working relationship that their parents enjoy with the childminder. She has implemented a range of written policies and procedures, including the procedure for managing complaints, which are shared with parents. A detailed daily information sheet and regular discussions keep parents informed about their child's day, progress and any issues.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a friendly and well organised home where indoor and outdoor space is used to maximise play opportunities for children. Children enjoy receiving lots of encouragement and attention from the childminder. The childminder continually broadens her childcare knowledge and skills by attending short training courses and those leading to a recognised childcare qualification. She monitors and improves upon the quality of care provided as part of an accredited quality assurance scheme.

The children's care is enhanced by the quality of organisation and the effective way the childminder plans the day to ensure individual needs are met. Children's welfare is promoted through robust policies and procedures which are provided to parents and fully support the childminder's practice. All required regulatory documentation is well recorded and maintained, however, medication records lack clarity.

Children benefit from having continuity. The childminder has an excellent partnership with parents, she shares and exchanges information verbally and in writing with parents. This ensures parents are kept well informed about their child's day, progress and any issues. Children are making good progress in all areas of development. 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 recommended to further develop the range of resources and ensure the recording of children's attendances. These recommendations have been fully addressed thereby ensuring children's safety and continued development. Children are able to independently access a good range of resources and a comprehensive record of children's attendances is maintained by the childminder.

### **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 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):

- improve documentation on administration of medication
- develop the range of activities that help children learn about equality of opportunity and the wider world.

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)