

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY340108
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 May 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Christine Marsh
<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 was registered in 2006. He lives with his wife, two adult children and their son aged 13 years, in the Little Hulton area of Salford, Lancashire. The childminder is a co-childminder with his wife. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. The property has been extended and bathroom facilities are available on the ground floor. There is a securely enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years at any one time and there are currently seven children under eight years attending. The childminder also cares for children over the age of eight years, and currently has seven children on roll. He also provides care in the school holidays.

Minded children are taken out regularly to childminder groups, the park and swimming. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder is an excellent cook who provides nutritionally well balanced, home cooked meals using fresh vegetables and meat. Children are seen enjoying chicken with carrots, broccoli and couscous for lunch. Yogurts and fresh strawberries are eaten later. Children benefit from these meals, and from learning about cooking from his teaching. For example, he makes pizza dough to which young children add fresh ingredients. These are then cooked and eaten. With older children who attend after school, he teaches them how to make the pizza dough, as well as putting the toppings on.

Children's health is protected by the childminder's knowledge of food hygiene and first aid. His knowledge of health and safety issues is also very good. He uses plastic gloves as he changes children's nappies, and reminds children to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Children learn good hygiene through the example set by their childminders. Each child has their own toothbrush which they use after meals which promotes children's dental health. Children have continual access to drinks which keep them refreshed. Cups are appropriate for their developmental stages, for example, young children use feeder cups.

Children have lots of opportunities for physical play indoors and out. They walk and run in the garden and develop their physical skills through chasing games and jumping on the bouncy castle. They enjoy playing in the garden moving between the large play house, the table with picnic crockery set out, and the bouncy castle, following each other as they play. The children are frequently taken out on visits to parks which gives them further opportunities for physical exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle. Children's fine motor skills are developed as they play with small world toys and the dolls house, use the tea set, explore dough, and make models.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder watches children vigilantly as they play. He supports children, catching toddlers as they overbalance outside, and providing a helpful level of support in their activities without being intrusive. For example, he provides small equipment for pouring custard as children make individual trifles, so that they can make their trifles independently. He observes carefully as children slice bananas and share them between the bowls equally. This enables children to participate fully in purposeful activities.

Children's equipment, toys and games that are developmentally appropriate, are stored in the living room and the back garden. The outdoor area includes a large space, the floor of which is in a child safe, soft material. This area is covered by an awning. This means that children can play out in wet weather. There is also a lawn which provides a change of surface. Children benefit from easy access between indoors and outdoors. They are seen freely moving between the areas using the resources fully and enjoying their play.

Children are cared for in a child-friendly and welcoming home. Information such as registration certificates, complaints book, and Ofsted's contact details are displayed in the entrance area. Attractive photographs showing children enjoying a variety of stimulating experiences are displayed in the hall. Children's self-esteem is boosted by seeing these pictures of themselves

on display. Children's safety is further protected by the childminder's knowledge of child protection issues and procedures.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder is very skilled at providing guidance and challenges within activities and daily life. For example, he encourages young children in feeding themselves, and supports them in their use of tools and equipment in their play. However, he has a limited working knowledge of curriculum frameworks for young children which affects his ability to consistently cover all areas of learning. The childminder has a gentle, quiet manner that children respond well to. They are seen calling for him to come and play with them, and he engages in rough and tumble play with them, which they love. They roll on the grass and squeal with delight as he tickles them. Their enjoyment of his company is clear.

The environment is stimulating and attractive with charts on numbers and writing displayed as well as photographs of the children. This well resourced and equipped home provides numerous opportunities for children to actively engage in high quality learning. Children are seen playing in the sand tray and with the tea set concentrating on their play intently. The childminder joins in without taking over when children need additional input or show frustration with their own abilities to pour or manoeuvre objects. In these ways children are well supported in their play and learning.

Children are secure and confident in the home. For example, they access toys and play equipment independently, helping themselves to water for the toy kettle as part of their tea set game, and transporting toys from one area to another to develop their play. Children are developing their independence through this free ranging play. They do interesting activities with an excellent balance between child-initiated and adult-initiated tasks built into the daily plan. They also take part in activities such as baking. Older children enjoy a range of games such as chess and word games. Children benefit from the stimulating experiences on offer.

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

The provision is good.

Each child is valued as an individual and treated accordingly. The childminder helps to create an inclusive environment where difference is positively valued. His introduction to childminding training and his work with his wife have provided an appropriate basis for his childminding work. He supports children's dietary needs, such as having specific allergies, by ensuring that these ingredients are excluded from the meals that he prepares. Special foods, such as Chinese dishes, are eaten when children are learning about Chinese New Year, for example, to increase their awareness of different cultures.

The home is well equipped with books and resources that promote positive images, for example dolls that represent several different cultures. The childminder supports children in their learning about the wider society through his discussions with children during their play activities.

The childminder's wife takes the lead with issues such as discipline. She discusses house rules with him, and they discuss them with the minded children. Together they have devised a set of rules to follow, such as, 'No shouting unless you are hurt'. Children have ownership of these rules and behave well. The childminder has his own personal style and children are seen behaving well, and responding positively to him. The two childminders are consistent in their treatment

of children and they support each other in the decisions they make. Children respond very well to these consistent expectations. Children's behaviour is further supported by a clear behaviour policy and by good communication between the childminders and parents. The childminder informs parents daily about their children's activities and has good relationships with them.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has completed his initial childminding training including his first aid certificate. He is intending to undertake further training, and he talks to his wife about training that she has attended, to increase his knowledge, and develop his childminding skills.

All legally required documentation is efficiently maintained, regularly updated and available for inspection. Relationships with parents are very good and these support children's well-being and sense of belonging in the setting. Plans are flexible to meet the needs of the children and time is managed well. The childminders make sure that children frequently go out on visits as well as enjoying appropriately stimulating activities in the home.

The childminder contributes to the organisation set up by his wife, further enhancing their provision by the good working relationship they have established, which benefits the children. For example, one childminder sometimes deals with an upset child, while the other plays with other children. When two children are present, each child has an adult to their selves to fully support and develop their play. In these ways children gain from the husband and wife team that the provision offers.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of 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 any complaints made by parents, which can be seen 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 knowledge and understanding of curriculum frameworks for young children.

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)