



## Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 501117          |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 22 June 2005    |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Carol Ann Dixon |

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| <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 outstanding. 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 1993. She has completed an Introduction to Childminding Practice, holds an NVQ level 3 in Childcare and Education and has attended many courses relating to early years childcare. She has a relevant first aid certificate and has completed the Rochdale "Children deserve quality" award. She is a member of Rochdale's "Children come first" network.

The childminder lives in a four bedroomed house in the Middleton area of Rochdale. She shares her home with her adult son. The family have a pet dog which is kept separate from minded children. The ground floor of the property is used for

childminding and two bedrooms are included for overnight care. A secure garden is available for outdoor play.

Childminding activities include the use of local amenities such as the playgroup and library. The childminder is a member of the local childminding group.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children and currently has nine children on roll who attend for various sessions. She is registered to provide overnight care.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children thrive because the childminder follows highly effective procedures and practices which meet the children's physical, nutritional and health needs. Children gain an excellent understanding of hygiene and a real desire to become increasingly independent in their personal care.

Children explore, test and develop physical control in stimulating daily indoor and outdoor experiences. The childminder's excellent understanding of each child's stage of development means the youngest children are confident to try out new skills, ask for help when needed and set their own limits within the safe environment. Older children develop a positive attitude to physical exercise.

Children help themselves to easily accessible drinking water and enjoy fresh fruit and vegetables at snack time. Children's meals are well balanced and take account of the individual and cultural needs of all children.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised because the childminder is extremely vigilant and uses thorough risk assessments to reduce potential hazards. The childminder has an excellent understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits, and how to involve children effectively in organising their environment. Children begin to learn knowledge about how to protect themselves from harm.

Children use high quality equipment appropriate to their age and stage of development. Regular communication with parents contributes to children's safety.

Children are very well protected by the childminder who has a clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures and gives high priority to children's welfare.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder. Children make excellent progress in all areas of their development as the highly skilled childminder uses her understanding of early years guidance, such as Birth to three matters and the Curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage, to provide high quality care.

Children's individual needs are responded to as the childminder recognises the uniqueness of each child. Close and caring relationships increase children's sense of trust and help them develop a strong sense of self. High quality adult-child interactions are extremely supportive of early communication skills. Children are happy and eager to participate in the varied experiences available. They begin to make sense of the world and express their ideas as they join in a diverse range of exploratory and sensory experiences.

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

The provision is outstanding.

All children are welcomed and valued as the childminder respects their individuality and the family context for each child. Children are valued as individuals and treated with equal concern, their needs are met well, in accordance with parents' wishes. This is supported by detailed documentation and verbal communication with parents on a daily basis so keeping them fully informed of children's activities and progress.

The childminder supports younger children in sharing and turn taking. Older children begin to learn to negotiate with others and take responsibility for their own behaviour. Children's understanding of right and wrong is promoted as they respond to gentle reminders to care for their environment and each other.

Children have extensive opportunities to learn about themselves, each other and the world around them through planned activities and outings to local places of interest. This positive approach fosters children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well.

An excellent partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well-being. The childminder actively seek parents' views about their children's needs and interests before the child starts and on a regular basis throughout their attendance. The childminder ensures that all parents know how their children are progressing and developing. Children benefit greatly from the involvement of their parents in activities, which contributes to their good health, safety, development and learning.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder enhances children's care by the exceptional quality of organisation.

The premises are well organised. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise play opportunities for children. All legally required documentation which contributes to

children's health, safety and well-being is in place and is regularly reviewed.

Children benefit from the comprehensive policies and procedures which the childminder has developed to underpin the care provided. The childminder is committed to continuous improvement and development. She regularly monitors and improves upon the quality of care provided as part of an accredited quality assurance scheme. The high quality of the provision means that the childminder meets the needs of the range of children who attend extremely well.

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

Since the last inspection, children's safety has been improved as the childminder has provided a fireblanket.

### **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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)