

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	311988
<b>Inspection date</b>	25 July 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Kay Margaret Armstrong
<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 satisfactory. 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 1980. She lives with her husband and young adult son in the Audenshaw area of Tameside. The family have a parrot and a snake as pets. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes. The grassed area of the garden is available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding eight children, one of whom attends on a full time basis.

The childminder holds recognised qualifications in early years and has completed the Children Come First Quality Assurance scheme. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and gains support from the local authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder discusses and agrees children's dietary requirements with parents. The sample menu clearly demonstrates the childminder's clear understanding of children's dietary requirements. She provides children with an appropriate range of meals and snacks, which are nutritious and contribute to their physical growth and development. Children remain hydrated, as they are able to access drinks freely.

Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their physical growth and development. They have plenty of fresh air and exercise as they walk to and from school daily. Children are taken to toddler groups and parks. They play in the garden, where they are able to run around and use the large equipment, such as climbing frames, swings and slides. These experiences help children to develop physical strength and gain control of their bodies.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows appropriate hygiene procedures, to ensure that they are cared for in a warm and clean home. Daily routines, such as washing their hands before meals and after using the bathroom, are beginning to promote children's understanding of good hygiene practices and minimise the risk of cross-infection.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children benefit from an appropriately maintained, homely environment, where the childminder places a high priority on safety. Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised, because the childminder has good written risk assessments in place to ensure the home environment is safe. Children are able to play freely and safely, as the childminder is vigilant and has a good recognition of the need for a balance between safe limits and freedom.

Children are beginning to learn about some aspects of managing their own safety. For example, when out walking, the childminder teaches them road awareness and they practise crossing the road safely. There is a written emergency escape plan in place. This has been practised with children, who are becoming aware of what to do in the event of a fire.

Children use good quality equipment that is appropriate to their age and stage of development. Toys are clean, well maintained and comply with safety standards, minimising risks to children. Resources are organised and easily accessible to the children, which enhances their learning and promotes choice and independence.

The childminder has the required documentation and knowledge in place to ensure children's welfare is adequately safeguarded and promoted. She has a satisfactory understanding of child protection procedures and of her responsibility with regards to keeping children safe. These are in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children are suitably stimulated and make sound progress in their development. They select toys and take part in age appropriate activities, such as imaginative play and crayoning. The

relaxed atmosphere enables children to settle quickly. The children are happy and have a warm and close relationship with the childminder, they clamber on to her knee and snuggle into her as she sits on the floor reading books to them. Children have support and attention from the childminder, which increases their sense of security and belonging.

The childminder provides a range of activities for the children. She spends time interacting with the children, who are engaged and interested. Young children's understanding, language and vocabulary are extended as the childminder talks to them as they play, echoing their early speech patterns and fostering their communication skills. The childminder skilfully introduces colour recognition and mathematical language into the activities. For example, as the children push cars to each other the childminder says 'here goes the red one' and 'now two together'. The childminder provides space for children to choose their own activities. They are able to access the resources, promoting their choice and independence. For example, children choose to play with a farm set, before completing jigsaw puzzles and concentrate for a considerable amount of time as they play imaginatively with dressing up clothes and dolls.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder speaks very positively to children, using encouragement effectively and positive reinforcement to support their efforts and foster their independence. Minor altercations are dealt with in a sensitive and positive manner, which is appropriate to the children's age and understanding. Good behaviour is acknowledged, and praised appropriately. As a result, the children are confident and are developing positive self-esteem. The childminder helps children to understand and maintain simple house rules, such as sharing and taking turns. Consequently, the children behave well and are beginning to develop respect for others.

The childminder works closely with parents, sharing information on a daily basis to ensure children's individual needs are recognised and their welfare is promoted. Children's home routines are followed with regard to meal and sleep patterns, providing a secure and familiar environment for the children, this promotes a sense of belonging and develops trust.

The childminder has a clear understanding of equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory play. Children take part in some activities to celebrate different festivals. Resources available reflect positive images of our diverse society. Consequently, children are becoming aware of difference and the world around them.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled and happy in the care of the childminder. They are welcomed into a warm and homely environment. Children benefit from the caring attention of the childminder. Routines which are familiar and consistent with children's life at home ensure that they feel secure. Space is suitably organised and used appropriately for the children's activities. The childminder plans a sufficient range of activities to interest the children and they make sound progress in their development.

The childminder has developed some written policies and procedures, which she shares with parents, keeping them well informed. Children benefit from the childminder's commitment to develop her childcare practice. She has attended several training workshops since her last inspection. The childminder has a sound understanding of the regulations and meets the

requirements, as outlined in the National Standards for Childminding. Most records and documentation are appropriately maintained, which contribute to the health, safety and welfare of the children. However, the record of complaints is not maintained in a confidential manner. The childminder cares for children within the required adult to child ratios, which ensures that they are safe and she is able to support their play and learning. 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 ensure the hearth in the dining room was made safe or inaccessible to children. At present children's safety is enhanced as they are unable to access this area, as the resources are stored in boxes in front of it.

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

Since the last inspection Ofsted have received concerns relating to National Standard 1 Suitable Person and National Standard 6 Safety. A childcare inspector visited the provision on 21 March 2007. Actions were raised and satisfactorily met by the registered provider. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- develop a system for keeping the complaints record in a confidential manner, in order that it can be shared with parents.

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)