

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY267084
<b>Inspection date</b>	19 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Shirley Leigh Monks-Meagher
<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 2003. She lives alone in the Chorlton area of Manchester. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. Bathroom facilities are upstairs. The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding two children, one of whom is over eight years. She takes the children to local amenities, such as the shops and parks.

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 home where generally sensible hygiene procedures are in place to protect children. For example, the childminder encourages children to wash their hands at appropriate times and rewards their diligence with stars on a chart. Children can relax or rest in comfort when they are tired.

The childminder has a good knowledge of children's likes, dislikes and specific dietary requirements because she seeks information from parents. Children benefit from a choice of healthy snacks, such as fresh fruit, small individual cheese portions, crackers and scotch pancakes. Children quench their thirsts with water and choose milk or yoghurt drinks as a treat.

Children develop a positive attitude towards physical exercise. They walk from school everyday and have opportunities to visit local facilities, such as the water park, if they attend during holiday times.

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

The provision is inadequate.

The childminder has poor recognition of hazardous situations and possible risks to children in her home. For example, she has a safety gate to deny children access to the kitchen area but it is not fitted across during the inspection whilst children are present. The kitchen contains accessible hazards to children, such as cleaning substances, alcohol, sharp knives and trailing wires. The childminder states that children do not enter the kitchen unsupervised, however, children have free access to the ground floor and supervision is minimal. The front playroom currently has a fridge freezer being stored in it. The childminder does not recognise it as a hazard to unsupervised children. She fails to comply with National Standard 6: Safety. Fire precautions are in place. Smoke detectors are fitted and a fire blanket is available. However, emergency evacuation has never been practised with children. The premises are kept secure and children know not to open the front door. They are learning to take some responsibility for their own safety. For example, they know to hold the banister when using the stairs, how to cross the road safely by waiting for the 'green man' and not to talk to strangers. The childminder's current knowledge of safeguarding children's welfare is very basic. It is currently insufficient to enable her to comply with National Standard 13: Child protection, and poses a possible risk to children's well-being.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and secure in the childminder's care. They enjoy their time with her because she gets down to their level, plays with them and supports their efforts. The children share warm trusting relationships with the childminder. She speaks to them in warm tones and enjoys close contact with them. For example, she ruffles a child's hair, smiles at them or touches a hand. Children sit close to her when they are watching television or reading a story.

Communication and language is encouraged and developed by the childminder who listens carefully and responds to children's speech. They talk consistently about what is happening and what they are doing. For example, the shape of the track and the colours of the cars or counting the stairs as they climb up them to visit the bathroom. Children enjoy building with bricks, singing songs and drawing. Older children spend time on the game console, watch some television and help younger children with their games. Children are able to play freely, follow their own interests and develop and practise their skills in a supportive and caring environment.

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

The provision is inadequate.

The childminder discusses the needs of the children with parents so she can offer the most appropriate care to their child. She tells parents about her service and advises them to approach her with any issues so that they can try to resolve them. Information is also given about the regulator. She has, however, insufficient awareness of the mandatory requirement relating to complaints to enable her to fully comply with National Standard 12: Working in partnership with parents and carers.

Children happily explore all the opportunities available and are learning to respect boundaries and recognise right from wrong in a supportive and caring environment. Children receive regular praise, reassuring comments and smiles and cuddles from the childminder. This helps them to feel at home with the childminder and promotes their self-esteem and confidence in their abilities. Children are developing positive attitudes towards the similarities and differences in our diverse society.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

The outcomes for children are inhibited because the childminder has failed to seek suitable pre-registration training to develop sufficient knowledge and understanding to enable her to comply with the requirements of the National Standards 1: Suitable person, 6: Safety, 12: Working in partnership with parents, 13: Child protection, and 14: Documentation. She has also failed to maintain her first aid certificate but has documentary evidence of an arranged course, in April 2008, with the local authority. Space and resources are sufficiently well organised to promote children's independence and choice. Accurate records are kept of children's attendance. Some mandatory documentation is absent.

Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the provider received actions which required her to obtain written consent from parents prior to administering medication, keep written records of any medication administered and develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures.

She also agreed to undertake an approved childminder's pre-registration course, keep toys and equipment clean and request and keep appropriate signed parental consent forms.

The childminder has obtained a National Childminding Association (NCMA) accident and medication publication to record any accidents sustained or medicine administered. It also contains a section for prior parental consent. This has been used to record information and is maintained sufficiently to better protect children's welfare. The childminder has a very basic understanding of child protection issues and states she would make contact with social services in the event of concerns. She states she would seek advice and support from the NCMA because she is a member and has relevant telephone contact details on her premises. She does not have a copy of the latest government guidelines, 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' to refer to. She has recently contacted the local authority and is booked on an 'Introduction to child protection' course. Her current limited knowledge and understanding poses a possible risk to children's welfare.

The childminder has failed to make arrangements to attend an approved childminder's pre-registration course resulting in limited knowledge and understanding of some National Standards which, consequently she is unable to meet. She has introduced systems to maintain the condition and cleanliness of her toys and equipment which are safe and clean, thus minimising risks to children's health and safety. She has asked parents to give their written permission for transporting children on public transport and taking them on outings but still does not have parents permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment should the need arise. This still poses a possible risk to children's welfare and well-being.

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

Since the last inspection 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 a local authority approved childminder's pre-registration course
- undertake and implement effective risk assessments of the premises and devise and implement emergency evacuation procedures
- obtain all the required written parental consents from parents and devise a system for recording complaints, in line with the requirements of the National Standards.

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)