

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY343442
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 September 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Judith Anne Kerr
<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. She lives with her husband in the Ordsall area of Salford, Manchester. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed front garden for outside play. The family have two dogs.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for two children on a variety of placements. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local adult and toddler group.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's individual health needs are mostly well met. They are effectively protected from infection and cared for in clean, healthy surroundings. The childminder's regular and thorough cleaning routines and good practice regarding preventing cross infection underpin this. This attention to good hygiene does not limit children's enjoyment of messy play. Children wash their hands before eating and after using the bathroom and gentle reminders are given if they

forget. Children's well-being if they are hurt is provided for well through up to date first aid training. Procedures are in place for sharing accidents and medication records with parents but consent is not requested for seeking emergency medical treatment if required. Young children are able to sleep as and when needed.

Children are well nourished and they enjoy the independence and social occasions meal times provide. Adults and children sit down together to eat the freshly prepared food with great enthusiasm. Children are gently encouraged to try a variety of foods rather than limiting themselves to familiar items. Individual dietary needs are consistently respected in line with parent's wishes. Readily accessible, appropriately styled cups enable children to help themselves to drinks whenever they wish to keep themselves hydrated.

The children have varied opportunities for exercise, to run, swing, crawl, climb and walk. They play in the garden, go out for a walk or visit the local park. This helps them to enjoy a healthy lifestyle and gain control of their bodies.

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

The provision is good.

Children can play safely in the garden and indoors because safety is a high priority to the childminder and she has good ongoing procedures in place to monitor this. Space is very well organised for play, mealtimes and rests. There is a good division of free floor play space and space for activities at the table. Toys and resources are varied, suitable and easily accessible. This allows children to make choices and develop their independence. The childminder carefully supervises children's choices of toys to ensure they are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that children are cared for in a safe and secure environment, such as using stair gates, fitting smoke alarms at each level of the house and providing a fire blanket in the kitchen. Low level electrical sockets are covered, meter cupboards and cleaning materials are inaccessible. Children are beginning to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe as the childminder explains boundaries. For example, she ensures the children understand the importance of following her instructions when crossing roads and only stepping out when told it is safe to do so. The children clearly understand as they explain we 'press the button and wait for beep, beep, beep to cross'.

Children are very well protected by the childminder's thorough knowledge of child protection. She is aware of the signs of possible abuse or neglect and who to contact to ensure a child receives the appropriate help. This ensures children are protected from harm and abuse.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy good relationships with the childminder. The childminder dedicates her time playing and talking to the children. She is calm and kind in her approach towards them and offers lots of positive physical contact by means of hugs and cuddles. As a result, they are settled and happy in the friendly atmosphere created in her home. The children benefit from sleep and feeding routines which are in line with their home experiences.

The children are provided with a wide range of age appropriate activities which enable them to learn new skills, such as repeatedly batting the ball in the air without allowing it to hit the

floor. Resources are arranged accessibly which enables the children to make their own choices and develop independence. The childminder makes good use of local amenities to widen children's experiences, such as the library and toddler group. This allows the children to socialise with others of their own age, provides opportunities to experience different play resources and environments, and helps them to become confident.

Children make good progress as the childminder informally assesses their current level of understanding and introduces activities to build on and extend their learning. The childminder promotes children's early communication skills as she reads stories, such as 'Topsy and Tim'. She encourages them to learn new words and sounds and sings songs, such as 'come on board the animal train'; this reinforces early speech patterns. Children particularly enjoy playing with natural materials as they dig in the soil and 'paint' the fence with water.

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

The provision is good.

Children learn about the wider community through discussions and the range of resources available that reflect our diverse society. This helps children to become aware of differences and develop a positive attitude towards others. The childminder shows due regard towards special needs and works in close liaison with parents to ensure their needs are fully met.

Expectations for children's behaviour are stated in a gentle and positive way, thus, all children quickly acquire confidence and self respect and are aware of right and wrong. Their behaviour is good, they are happy, confident and are learning good manners. The childminder offers the children lots of praise in order to encourage positive behaviour. Their efforts and achievements are valued as the childminder displays their paintings on the wall.

Children benefit from the purposeful relationships the childminder has developed with parents. Daily sharing of information ensures consistency and continuity of care, keeping parents informed about the provision and their children's activities and progress. The required documentation relating to individual children is maintained.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by the childminder's good organisation. They feel at home and at ease in a well arranged environment. There is lots of space to play in comfort with resources being organised to promote their independence. This encourages them to make their own choices about their play and learning.

The childminder is committed to improving the high quality of care she provides for the children. All adults with access to the children are suitable and ratios of adults to children are met at all times. This helps to keep children safe.

Most records and documentation are in place and of a good standard which contributes to the continuity of care for the children. The certificate of registration is clearly displayed for parents to see.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the 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 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):

- request written parental permission for the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment.

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)