

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY278563
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 July 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Angela Cuffe

<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 has been registered since 2004. She lives with her husband and daughter, who are also registered childminders, in Rusholme, Manchester. The whole of the ground floor and the front bedroom on the first floor of the childminder's house are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five years full time, one child under five years part time and four children over five years after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends local parent and toddler groups.

The childminder supports children who speak English as an additional language. She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children demonstrate an understanding of keeping themselves healthy. They carefully wash their hands with appropriate levels of support. They also discuss healthy food at meal and snack times. The childminder is aware of, and caters for, children's individual dietary needs. She communicates closely with parents to ensure that young children's routines with regard to eating and sleeping are followed; any dietary requirements are noted and catered for. Written information regarding the children is shared with parents on a daily basis, including details of eating, sleeping, nappy changing as well as the activities they have enjoyed.

Children are protected from the spread of infection as good hygiene procedures are in place. The childminder follows the nappy changing routine for each child, toilets and play areas are kept clean and there are good food hygiene practices within the kitchen. A healthy lifestyle is promoted for children as they are taken to the local park and other places of interest. All children regularly use the play equipment in the garden where they benefit from fresh air and exercise. The clear sickness policy is implemented and understood by parents, as are the procedures for administering medication and first aid, therefore, promoting children's health and well-being.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming, safe environment where they develop a sense of belonging. Children access the good range of activities which are on offer to them. These are well organised and provide them with opportunities to progress in all areas of their development. Children have ample space in which to explore. They make choices from the wide range of materials and resources available to them.

Children are protected from harm as the childminder follows the comprehensive procedures to maintain their safety and protection. The childminder is observant and vigilant, while allowing children to explore. Therefore, potential hazards are minimised and children are able to develop independently. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they are aware of the areas they can and can not play in. They learn about road safety and 'stranger danger' whilst on outings and practise fire drills on a regular basis. However, the childminder does not have written permission from parents to use the large trampoline in the garden.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and develop confidence and self-esteem. They build secure relationships with the childminder and have fun together. Children are actively engaged in the activities and show interest and understanding in the lunchtime discussions. They eagerly choose their activities and become engrossed in their play, developing good imagination skills. Children enjoy and benefit from regular opportunities to play with sensory and natural materials. They explore a large toy box and play with the contents of the treasure basket. Children actively play with balls, spinning them and kicking them and bounce a large balloon around the room. The childminder takes the children into the garden, where they patiently take turns on the trampoline.

Children are given appropriate attention as the childminder is aware of their needs. She gives them support when needed as she sits on the floor joining in with the activities and then watches as they happily play together. Children are motivated and interested in the broad range of activities available. The children have unlimited access to the garden for outdoor play and are taken out on a regular basis where they socialise with other children.

Children develop independence as they pull themselves up and walk around; holding onto the furniture or the childminder for support. Children are praised for their efforts and are proud of their achievements. They move around and freely choose what they would like to play with. They make choices from the planned activities and range of toys available. Children confidently talk about their favourite toys and books and interact well with the childminder as she talks cheerfully to them.

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

The provision is good.

Children value each other as individuals. They are treated with equal concern because the childminder obtains all relevant information from parents. She has a good understanding of equal opportunities issues and how this effects her practice. Equal opportunities is promoted through the good range of positive images in books, toys and equipment; children learn different languages from books, computers and the spoken language within the setting. They are made aware of the wider world through regular outings and information in books. There is a good selection of resources and images which positively reflect our diverse society. Children take part in and learn about various celebrations and festivals.

Good behaviour, children's efforts and achievements are acknowledged, recognised and praised appropriately. Consequently children are confident and have high self-esteem. The childminder speaks positively to the children. She supports and helps them to understand simple rules, such as sharing and taking turns. As a result, the children behave well and interact with each other in a positive manner. They understand their boundaries and respond well to discussions and occasional reminders. Information about the children's progress is shared verbally or written on a daily basis; parents are welcome to call in anytime to see their children. The childminder has a good knowledge of the individual children and responds to their needs well. Consequently, children develop a high self-esteem and treat others with care and respect.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by the childminder's effective organisation. The daily routine offers a good balance of adult-led activities, free play and quiet times. The childminder incorporates the 'Birth to three matters' framework in her planning to ensure the needs of babies and young children are appropriately met. She also ensures that children have sufficient space in order to play in comfort. She organises play materials to promote children's independence and encourage choices about their play and learning. Children are at home in the comfortable and welcoming surroundings and have settled in well.

All records and documentation are in place and of a high standard. The childminder has devised written policies and procedures, which are in line with the National Standards and reflect the practice. This enhances the continuity of care of the children. The childminder keeps first aid up to date and has attended a range of other relevant training. As a result, children's safety, security and the childminder's partnership with parents is enhanced.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the provider agreed to develop knowledge and understanding of the local child protection procedures, devise and practise an emergency evacuation plan, ensure that accurate time of children's arrival and departure is recorded and ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

The childminder has attended training in child protection; she has leaflets that reflect current legislation and has devised policies and procedures. There is a clear emergency evacuation procedure in place and fire drills are practised on a regular basis. The childminder uses the NCMA register which is kept up to date. The children benefit from a good range of toys, equipment and activities that reflect a diverse society.

### **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 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):

- obtain written permission from parents to use large play equipment.

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)