

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	307417
<b>Inspection date</b>	31 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Glynis Margaret Kite

<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 for approximately 36 years. She lives with her two adult children in the Walkden area of Salford. The family have a pet cat. All of the ground floor with toilet facilities is used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The property is within walking distance of shops, parks, a library, schools and colleges. There may be a maximum of four minded children on the premises at any one time.

There are four children on the register. Children may attend full or part time places.

The childminder attends a parent toddler group on a regular basis.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder implements good health and hygiene procedures. The premises are kept clean and children's toys and equipment are routinely cleaned to help prevent cross contamination. Children are also protected from the spread of infection because

the childminder implements an exclusion policy for sick children. Younger children have their own drinking cups, identified by colour; this also helps to reduce the risk of cross contamination. Children are becoming more independent as they wash their own hands after going to the bathroom. The childminder shows respect to children during nappy changing procedures. She maintains their dignity and involves them in the process, making it a fun experience. Children are also learning about washing their hands as the childminder talks through the routine.

Children benefit from the childminder's understanding of a healthy nutritious diet. She offers fresh fruit at snack time and toast. Children are offered home cooked meals served with vegetables. Parents provide the childminder with details of their children's individual needs which help her to meet their needs effectively. Positive relationships are established as children sit together for meals and snacks.

All children are offered opportunities to engage in physical activity on a daily basis, such as walking, climbing and running, either in the garden or during visits to the park or toddler group. Quiet times in the day enable children to rest and sleep as required.

Required records and documentation is in place with regard to the safe management of accidents and medication. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate to ensure children receive appropriate care and attention during illness or minor accidents.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a homely environment where potential hazards are identified and minimised, allowing children to move around safely and play independently. The childminder makes good use of safety equipment, such as a fire guard and safety gates. Gas appliances are checked annually and smoke alarms are in place, however, there is no procedure in place for practicing emergency evacuations with children. The childminder checks the suitability of the furniture, toys and equipment regularly to ensure safety.

Children's learning and play is encouraged through the provision of good quality, safe and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. Children have easy access to an extensive range of toys and equipment, including those which promote diversity. Children are beginning to learn about keeping themselves safe as they help the childminder to tidy away toys to prevent minor accidents. Children's needs are met effectively because the childminder provides suitable furniture to support individual development, for example, high chairs, travel cots, low level tables and chairs. Children's comfort is maintained as they select where they sit when having snacks, for example, one child chooses to sit in the high chair instead of at the low table with other children.

Children are protected from harm because the childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and procedures. She provides parents with a verbal explanation of her role in keeping children safe from harm.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled with the childminder. Children are confident and enjoy a close relationship with the childminder. Children freely explore the environment and access toys and equipment of their choice. Children remain engaged in chosen activities for sustained periods

of time. Children are beginning to form relationships with each other as they share some games, however, there is an age difference which means children tend to play alongside each other and copy play.

Children enjoy creative activities and explore play dough and mark making equipment. Children show good levels of concentration while poking, rolling and cutting the dough into various shapes. The childminder supports language and mathematical development through the wide range of activities and daily routines, such as stories and sorting/matching. Children are eager to share their knowledge, such as being able to match the colour of cars. Children are given opportunities to experience new interesting activities in a variety of other locations, such as visits to the museum, theme parks and the seaside.

Children are learning about sharing and taking turns through play. The childminder supports them well through encouragement and praise. The childminder has a flexible approach and provides toys and activities based on the children's interest and their stage of development. The childminder has a good understanding of the developmental needs of the children in her care and as a result, children benefit from appropriate levels of support, care and attention given.

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

The provision is good.

To enable the childminder to meet the individual needs of children in her care, she exchanges lots of information with parents and records the details. As a result children's routines are maintained and their needs met well. A programme of gradual visits enables parents and children to meet the childminder and her family and become familiar with the surroundings. Children benefit from these visits and settle quickly. All children are treated with equal concern and with respect. They have access to a wide range of toys and resources which promote individual development and diversity in the wider community. Children are beginning to learn about the world in which we live as they are helping the childminder to recycle household items, such as paper, glass and plastic containers.

Children benefit from the close working relationship that the childminder has established with their parents. They regularly exchange information with regard to the needs of the children and their progress. The childminder implements a range of strategies to manage children's behaviour effectively, based on their ages and stage of development, such as discussion, distraction and time out. She uses positive language and is consistent in her approach. Children are well behaved and respond to the boundaries set by the childminder.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a suitably qualified and experienced adult. Children receive close attention and supervision from the childminder at all times ensuring their safety while in her care.

The childminder ensures that the children have sufficient space in order to play in comfort and organises the resources well to promote children's independence. Children have opportunities to move around freely, thus benefiting from time to explore their own interest and to have a change of scenery. Children's records and documentation is in place and meets the required standard which contributes to the continuity of care for the children. However, some of these

are not organised sufficiently well to make sure they are easily accessible during inspection or if the childminder needs them.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children who attend.

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

Since the last inspection the childminder has completed a recognised first aid course which includes infants and young children. The action taken improves the overall safety and well-being of children attending.

### **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):

- devise and practice an emergency evacuation procedure which includes children
- organise children's records into an easily accessible system

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)