

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	311987
<b>Inspection date</b>	07 February 2008
<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 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 1989. She lives with her husband and adult daughter in the Dukinfield, area of Tameside, close to shops, parks and the library. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed back yard for outdoor play.

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

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and a network childminder, she gains support from the local authority.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children clearly thrive because the childminder follows effective and robust hygiene procedures to ensure that they are cared for in a warm and clean home. The risk of cross-infection is

minimised by daily routines which promote children's understanding of good hygiene practices. The childminder provides effective support, encouragement and equipment to ensure children are able to become independent and develop good self-help skills. For example, they have individual towels in the bathroom and the pump action soap dispenser encourages them to use soap. As a result children are beginning to understand the importance of good hygiene routines.

Children have lots of opportunities to be active. They get lots of fresh air and are beginning to develop a positive attitude to physical exercise as it becomes part of their daily routine. For example, they are taken to toddler groups or activity play centres, where they are able to climb, swing and run around. They regularly visit the local park where they enjoy playing football and have the opportunity to play in the garden with balls, bean bags and sit and ride toys. These activities promote children's physical development and well-being.

The childminder discusses and agrees children's dietary requirements with parents. The menu clearly demonstrates that meals are well balanced and take account of the individual needs of all children. Children are given fresh fruit and vegetables daily. As a result, the children are beginning to develop healthy eating habits, which contribute to their physical growth and development. Children remain hydrated as they are able to independently help themselves to drinks of water, which are easily accessible. In discussion the childminder demonstrates a sound awareness of food safety, there is a food hygiene certificate in place, however, this lapses in June 2008.

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

The provision is good.

Children have a good sense of belonging as they make themselves comfortable in the warm and welcoming home. They independently choose activities from a broad range of toys and resources, which are easily accessible and appropriate to their age and stage of development. The toys are well maintained to a high standard as they are purchased from reputable shops and are regularly checked to ensure they are safe for children to use.

Children's risk of injury is minimised as the childminder has a good awareness of safety and regular written risk assessments are undertaken. She offers good supervision and has appropriate safety measures in place. For example, locks securely fitted on kitchen cupboards, a safety gate is used at the bottom of the stairs, a carbon monoxide detector is in place, the exterior doors are locked and children's safety when on outings is well considered. Children are beginning to learn about some aspects of keeping themselves safe as the emergency evacuation procedures are regularly practiced and they are made aware of road safety.

Children are protected effectively because the childminder has updated her knowledge by attending relevant training. Consequently, she has a good level of understanding on child protection issues. She is fully aware of procedures to follow, these in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board Procedures, which ensure children are protected.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content in the care of the supportive childminder, as she plays with them and offers lots of stimulating activities. For example, children develop their creativity as they make dragon heads, which are beautifully painted and decorated. Children develop their social skills as they play cooperatively with their peers and through regular attendance at the

toddler groups. Their understanding, language and vocabulary skills, are truly fostered as they childminder talks to them at their level of understanding and responds appropriately to their continuous questions.

The childminder has a good understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework which she incorporates into the varied and imaginative range of experiences she provides for the children. The childminder provides space for children to choose their own activities. They are able to access the resources easily, promoting their choice and independence. For example, children help themselves to books and snuggle into the childminder as she reads to them. The children are engaged, motivated and interested in the activities which are fun. They play imaginatively with dolls, the well stocked kitchen and pretend food. They enjoy making 'pancakes' mixing the ingredients together. They enjoy exploring finger puppets and singing 'Twinkle twinkle little star'.

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

The provision is good.

All children have a good sense of belonging as they are warmly welcomed into the home and are treated with equal regard. The childminder is committed to developing children's understanding of diversity as she offers an excellent selection of toys, which promote positive images and she talks to children about differences. Children celebrate different festivals throughout the year, such as, Chinese New Year, when the childminder plans a range of activities which include making Chinese hats, dragon heads and sampling Chinese cuisine. As a result, children are developing a good understanding of different cultures and traditions and are developing a respect for others.

Children enjoy the praise and encouragement they receive, which increases their confidence. When dealing with incidents, such as tantrums the childminder successfully uses strategies, which are appropriate to their age and methods are clearly reflected in the behaviour management policy. The childminder speaks very positively to children, using encouragement effectively, to support their efforts and foster their independence. Children know and understand the expectations of the childminder. Older children are becoming responsible as they help younger children with activities, such as putting on their slippers. Good behaviour is acknowledged and praised appropriately. As a result, the children are confident and are developing positive self-esteem.

The childminder ensures relevant information is obtained to meet the children's needs. She in turn provides parents with a welcome pack, which outlines the care and play opportunities provided. In addition to this the childminder and parents exchange information both verbally and written at the end of each day, which contributes significantly to children's care and well-being. As result, the children benefit from the continuity of the care provided.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are very happy and are well cared for in the childminder's home. They clearly benefit from consistent routines which meet their individual needs. Space is well organised and is effectively defined for varied activities. The children are well stimulated and they show high levels of interest in activities. The consistent routines ensure that children always feel secure and settled.

Records and documentation are clearly detailed and are maintained in good order, which contributes to the continuity of care for the children. The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of her responsibilities and of the childminding regulations. She attends relevant courses to update her knowledge and children clearly benefit from the good quality childcare. 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 childminder agreed to improve the systems; to record any concerns she had regarding child protection and the administering of medication. There are now systems in place to adequately record concerns regarding child protection. The procedures for recording medication administered have been up dated and are in line with the requirements of registration. These improvements ensure children's safety is maintained and they are cared for in line with parents' wishes.

### **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):

- make arrangements to update food hygiene training.

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)