

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	316103
<b>Inspection date</b>	25 October 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Jane Pamela Berry

<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 1992. She lives with her husband and teenage son in Heywood, a suburb of Rochdale. The family also have a dog. The property is close to a main bus route through Heywood and is within walking distance of Our Lady and St Paul's Primary School.

The whole of the ground floor and a rear bedroom on the first floor are used for childminding purposes and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered for six children at any one time and is currently minding seven children, some of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder takes and collects children from school and nursery as part of the service and attends local support groups regularly. Activities at the library and Sure Start are also attended.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and dietary needs are well met through discussions with parents and the recording of allergies and any special requirements. Although, the childminder has implemented written policies they currently do not include notifications for serious health concerns.

The children's physical health is well promoted through daily fresh air and regular exercise, walking to and from school, frequently visiting the local park or using appropriate play equipment in the garden. Children enjoy physical activity indoors through music and dance. The childminder does Yoga with the children occasionally. They stay healthy through appropriate hygiene routines, such as washing hands after toileting and before handling food. The children are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment, where pets are mostly kept separate and are well supervised. Children are adequately protected from infection through having their own towels and through the effective exclusion of children who are ill. The childminder is able to respond to children in a medical emergency as she has updated her knowledge in first aid and is suitably qualified to administer treatment.

Children are well nourished through a range of healthy foods, mostly provided by parents as agreed on admission. Drinks are provided throughout the day, promoting children's good health. Children respond well to routines, for example, they sit at the table together and socialise at mealtimes. Children learn about healthy eating through appropriate discussions about foods that are good for them and helping to prepare vegetables, such as peeling carrots. Children rest according to their needs and appropriate opportunities are provided for quiet play and relaxation through reading books and stories.

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

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe because the childminder ensures appropriate safety measures are in place, such as holding hands when outdoors and staying together at the park. The children learn to keep themselves safe through discussions about road safety and 'stranger danger' and from visits to the childminder group from the fire service. The children benefit from seeing people who help us in real life situations, which promotes their understanding of safety. Their safety is also enhanced due to the childminder practising evacuations and involving the children in recording them in the fire log. The children are developing some understanding of potential hazards through being made aware of any risks. They remain safe through close supervision.

The children are adequately protected because the childminder has sufficient understanding of her role in child protection and appropriate procedures to follow if needed. Space is adequately organised to allow children to move around freely and safely. The areas children use are made welcoming through accessible toys and resources. They have good access to a wide range of suitable and stimulating toys, that are checked daily and are thoroughly cleaned. Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment through the childminder taking all precautions to minimise hazards.

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

The provision is good.

Children are settled, relaxed and are having great fun in the setting because the childminder gives them individual care and attention. They are interested and motivated to learn, for example, when completing jigsaws and free painting. Children can explore textures of natural materials, such as feathers and patterned textiles, as well as manufactured toys. Through a range of art and craft materials, the children are developing their imagination and creativity, thus promoting a sense of achievement and enjoyment.

The children are developing their sense of self and personal confidence through activities that foster their development, such as using their imagination when dressing up, building models with construction toys and in their art work. Children acquire new knowledge and skills through daily routines, for example, counting the pieces of puzzle and helping to tidy up. They freely make choices in their play and pursue their interests, for example, dressing up as a fairies and witches, gluing and sticking and mark-making. Children have been apple picking and enjoy feeding the ducks at the park, as well as football and robust play on the large climbing equipment. Resources are suitably organised to help children become independent learners and the childminder offers guidance as the children play and learn to problem solve.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are developing some awareness of the needs of others through encouragement to take turns and to consider the needs of others. The childminder ensures all the children are fully involved through changing or adapting activities to suit all levels of interest and ability. Children have a trusting and secure relationship with the childminder, through warm affectionate cuddles and reassurances being given. They are valued and are made to feel important through being actively listened to and through their artwork being respected.

The children have good opportunities to become aware of the wider world through play resources, that reflect our diverse society. Also through equal access for both boys and girls to participate in games and sports. The children mostly respond by behaving well. Although some exceptions are noted, as older children sometimes overstretch the boundaries and expectations. They begin to understand responsible behaviour through being given explanations and by having rules that result in occasional withdrawal from activities or quiet time.

Children benefit from effective partnership with parents to meet their individual and unique needs, for example, through obtaining information on the children on admission and consent forms being signed. Information is made available to parents regarding complaints, however, the system for sharing the information with parents lacks clarity. That being said, none have been received to date. The childminder has obtained information on the 'Birth to three matters' framework. However, this is underdeveloped and is currently not shared with parents. Children's care is enhanced through the daily exchange of information regarding their progress and welfare.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are safe and protected through the childminder's awareness of the vetting of household members. She maintains adequate ratios, thus improving the safety of children. The childminder organises her time, space and resources appropriately to meet the children's unique and

individual needs. In addition to the stimulation at the childminder's home, they benefit from visits to facilities in the local community, such as shopping and attending childminder groups.

Children's care and well-being is enhanced through the childminder's commitment to broadening her knowledge and skills through further training, for example, she is knowledgeable about food hygiene and safeguarding issues. Adequate documentation is securely in place, which is readily shared with parents and is stored to ensure confidentiality is respected. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to: improve fire safety and facilities for first aid; to provide individual hand towels in the bathroom; to improve documentation, including obtaining written consents and recording accidents, and to review the storage of resources to ensure that they are readily accessible and that there are sufficient choices available to meet the children's needs.

The childminder has installed a second smoke detector and practises fire evacuations regularly; she provides individual paper towels for the children to wash their hands; she has obtained signed parental consent for administering medication and for the seeking of emergency medical treatment in an emergency. Toys are now stored in accessible containers, and she has purchased additional equipment that reflect inclusive practice. This ensures children are well stimulated and have plenty of choices available. These improvements further enhance the care and safety of children attending the setting.

### **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):

- amend information for parent's in relation to the notification of serious illness's and the complaints process
- further develop the use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and share this with parents.

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)