

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	500407
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 November 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 was registered in 1998. She lives with her husband and two children in the Blackley area of Manchester. The family have a pet rabbit.

The lounge, dining room and bathroom upstairs are used for childminding purposes and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. There are currently six children under eight years on roll, most of whom are cared for on a part-time basis. The childminder also cares for older children.

The childminder takes children to local amenities, such as the park, the sports centre, the local childminder's group, Sure Start activities and the library. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder promotes good hygiene practices with the children at all times. The children enjoy and understand simple routines, which are made interesting as they learn how to stop germs from spreading. They are fully protected from the risk of illness and infection through a clear, written sickness policy. The policy is shown to parents and includes useful information on common childhood illnesses and exclusion times. Children's health is further protected through the childminder's clear understanding of their health needs and highly effective routines. Appropriate and detailed records of accident and medication details are maintained, which safeguard the welfare of children.

Effective arrangements for food and drink are made in consultation with parents to meet children's individual requirements. Sample menus are displayed for parents in a file, which show healthy meal and snack options. This is followed up with daily reports showing what children have done and how well they have eaten each day. The childminder encourages children to try new tastes and textures and meets their dietary requirements very well. For example, sampling exotic dishes, such as curries and Italian food. She encourages the children to use charts showing how many fruit and vegetables they eat each day. Children are well hydrated and they develop their personal independence as they independently access drinks.

Children enjoy taking part in regular play opportunities in the garden, at the park and during outings to places of interest. They benefit from fresh air as they play robust games with a range of outdoor toys. Children learn to climb as they develop physical skills and confidence on the large equipment at local venues. They enjoy climbing and balancing at the park and activity centres.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and secure as they are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. Space is used effectively to plan for varied activities. The area is bright and attractive to children, with pictures and posters displayed to promote their learning. Children are familiar with the environment and move around easily and with confidence. They make choices as they have independent access to clearly organised toys, which are age appropriate and well maintained.

Children feel safe in the home as the childminder takes effective measures to minimise most hazards and to prevent accidents. Although risk assessments do not include the steps to the front of the property which require additional vigilance when entering and departing from the childminders home. She demonstrates a clear awareness of safety issues in all other aspects and has a written emergency evacuation plan, which is practised regularly. This enables the children to know what to do in an emergency situation. Areas used by children continue to be safe and suitable for children of all ages because of rigorous checks and high levels of supervision. She is also qualified to administer first aid to children in an emergency situation, should the need arise.

Children's welfare is safeguarded through the childminder's clear understanding of safeguarding issues. A policy statement is used to inform parents of the procedures on admission and she is

knowledgeable about her responsibilities to protect children. The childminder attends appropriate training to ensure that she keeps her knowledge updated.

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

The provision is good.

Children have warm and affectionate relationships with the childminder and are developing well socially as a result of being with her and the other children. They benefit greatly from varied activities which are interesting and effectively promote their overall development. For example, they complete jigsaws readily, they listen to music and enjoy dancing. The children play rhythmically with musical instruments and join in songs, often reciting their favourite songs from the television.

The children enjoy varied messy activities that allow them to express their ideas, such as painting and sticking leaves. The childminder ensures that she extends children's language, ensuring young children learn the skills of socialisation. Their vocabulary is increasing and most importantly they feel loved and valued, as an individual in their own right. They enjoy listening and interact well during stories, recognising familiar characters and places in books.

The children show an interest in nature as they observe animals in the wild and at a local farm. They use a wide range of materials as they play and explore their environment, such as a basket filled with natural and sensory materials. The children are well stimulated in their play and are making secure progress with their learning and development. They have a good balance of free choice and planned activities, where they benefit from skilful adult interaction. They help to prepare snacks and bake cakes, for example.

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

The provision is good.

The children benefit from the childminder having a clear awareness of equal opportunities. She helps them to be aware of differences in people and places and fosters positive attitudes to difference. The children learn about the locality when they go out visiting people and places of interest. Children become aware of the wider world as they look at books and talk about other countries.

The childminder promotes inclusion and ensures that children have equal access to play materials. They are familiar with and have a strong sense of security during routines. Children consistently achieve the high expectations. They are developing a strong sense of themselves and enjoy taking responsibility for small tasks. For example, they enjoy helping by collecting items for the childminder on request. The childminder knows the children well and discusses their requirements to ensure that their individual needs are well met.

Children understand the simple house rules and high, yet realistic expectations. The written policy is clearly implemented in practice. They respond by behaving very well. Explanations and reassurances appropriate to their age and level of understanding are given following any incidents. Good behaviour is often acknowledged with positive attention.

The childminder promotes positive working relationships with parents. Regular discussions and appropriate record keeping ensure that the needs of children are consistently met. However, limited information on how children are developing in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework is accessible for parents and carers. Notices and posters are displayed to keep parents

well informed of any changes to childminding regulations. Long term relationships develop and parents commend the quality of care given to their children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

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

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of her responsibilities and of the childminding regulations. She attends relevant courses to update her knowledge and to promote good quality childcare. Records and documentation are clearly detailed and are maintained in good order, which contributes to the continuity of care for the children. 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 was asked to ensure that appliances conform to the safety requirements and to record arrival and departure times more accurately. All of these recommendations have been addressed ensuring a safer environment for the children.

### **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):

- develop a system to acknowledge parents have been advised to be extra vigilant when arriving and departing from the premises due to potential safety hazards at the front of the premises
- continue to develop a clearer understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and share this with parents and carers.

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)