

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	503919
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 February 2008
<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 satisfactory. 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 2001. She lives with her husband and two children in the Blackley area of Manchester.

The lounge, kitchen/dining room and toilet on the ground floor, both the back and the front bedrooms and a bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed back garden.

The childminder is registered for four children and there are currently four children who attend part-time on roll. The childminder supports children with disabilities and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn how to stay healthy through effective routines. They know how to eliminate germs through washing their hands with soap and water in the sink and dry their hands

competently with paper towels. They understand that they need to cover their nose and mouth when sneezing to prevent germs spreading.

Children help plan and prepare healthy snacks, for example, chopping up mushrooms, sweet corn, peppers, and cold meat to make pizzas with toppings of their choice. They display high levels of awareness about nutrition and the five fruit and vegetables per day scheme. Children talk about eating fresh fruit and vegetables in preference to unhealthy alternatives, and when allowed to choose they select treats in moderation. The children choose to drink fresh drinking water and have ready access to sports bottles that are topped up frequently.

The children are learning about how their body works, such as foods that provide energy and those that may lead to problems if eaten excessively. For example, foods that do not provide them with the fuel they require for healthy growth and development. They talk enthusiastically about walking in the park and taking regular exercise, such as dance and gymnastics. They walk, run, hop and jump and ride wheeled toys in the garden, exercising their large muscles.

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

The provision is good.

Children look forward to visits from professionals, such as the fire officer, to help them to understand fire safety. Smoke detectors are fitted throughout the family home including specialist equipment for children with hearing loss. They practise evacuations under close supervision by sounding the alarm and assembling at the door in preparation for any emergencies. The childminder is equipped to deal with safeguarding concerns, having attended training in this area. The first aid kit is replenished frequently, as required, in order to meet children's needs.

Equipment is plentiful and of high quality. The children often trial pre-school new resources for educational suppliers, which adds to their enjoyment. Furniture is safe and risks are appropriately assessed and well managed. Children remain within the childminder's sight or hearing at all times, including staying close in public parks and gardens. They learn through discussion about stranger danger and what to do if they are in trouble. The children practise and learn about road safety in the community, such as whilst travelling on foot to school.

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

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy drawing their own free representations. They draw pictures of their interests and of visitors and favourite characters, for example, James Bond 007. Children express themselves exceptionally well through creativity, as they make treasure caskets decorating them with natural materials, such as feathers, gel pens, corks and glitter. The children show excitement as they share their favourite games and love to sing and dance.

The children are consulted over the planning of activities. They willingly write their names and produce excellent art work. They look at books with enthusiasm and listen attentively as the childminder reads to them using intonation and taking on different characters. This fosters their love of stories and reading books and fires their imagination. Most children write for a purpose with interest and great enthusiasm. They are capable of forming recognisable letters as they write their name on their work. However, the childminder has limited knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and changes and developments in the legislation that will impact on the care provided. She currently has limited evidence of planning to meet children's

needs over time as she responds mostly to their immediate interests and is very spontaneous and creative with the time available.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about different lifestyles and have very good opportunities to learn about race, gender, culture and disability. For example, they enjoy dolls, life size puppets and equipment that reflects cultural diversity. The children are encouraged to celebrate difference by eating a wide varied selection of foods and they learn about religious observances and traditions. This helps them to develop positive attitudes to and knowledge of the wider society.

The children are developing a good social awareness and they interact well, often resolving their own personal dilemmas, for example, when sharing toys and taking turns with popular equipment. Two of the children divide the animals equally between them as they play with the animals belonging to the Noah's Ark. They understand what 'being fair to one another' is all about from an early age. They are able to distinguish between 'more and less' and who has 'too many or too few animals'. In this way they are learning to resolve problems and the skills of socialisation at an early age.

The childminder teaches children to respect boundaries and to comply with the limited rules and expectations, such as not running up or down the stairs. When this occurs the children have their privileges restricted, such as having to play downstairs until the trust is restored. The children respond well and abide by the rules often reminding one another if they misbehave. In this way they are able to self-regulate their behaviour and show that they know right from wrong.

The children are extremely well behaved. They are polite and exceptionally well mannered as they show great respect for and a desire to please others. This includes both children and adults alike. They are assertive and are able to stand up for their own rights, as individuals in their own right. Children with disabilities are made extremely welcome as the childminder has a wealth of experience of caring for children with physical and sensory difficulties.

Partnership with children's parents is established from the outset with sensitive and planned gradual introductions. Children are encouraged to visit with parents to establish relationships and these are extended over time for the younger children or according to individual need. Positive written feedback in the form of thank you letters and cards express parents, and older children's satisfaction regarding the services provided. The childminder encourages regular dialogue including any suggestions for improvement, although none have been received to date. Therefore, a system for the logging of complaints has not been established. The childminder does have a written complaints procedure making it clear to parents what they need to do if they are unhappy about the care provided. The childminder is aware of the requirement to investigate and respond in writing to complaints from parents as outlined in the legislation.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's effective documentation and routines that meet children's needs. However, due to reasons beyond the childminder's control she has not updated her knowledge in respect of the qualification requirement for paediatric first aid. This is a breach

of a regulation. The childminder has a place already booked to attend this training, however, in the interim her ability to meet the needs of children in an emergency is adversely affected. The impact on the children is minimal as she has some knowledge from her previous training in this area.

Documentation is highly effective, with regular updates being given to parents on children's progress. Ratios are well met and routines are organised to ensure children's needs are prioritised. The childminder has limited knowledge of the legislative developments in respect of younger children and how this affects the delivery of care. She has robust systems in place to supervise and ensure children are never left alone with visitors. All members of the childminder's household are subjected to checks regarding their suitability, to ensure children's safety and well-being. 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 provider was asked to improve the quality of information available to parents regarding their children's interests and developmental progress. This has been addressed in that the childminder now keeps written notes about what children do whilst in the setting. She meets with parents annually to review children's progression and discusses their interests during handovers at the start and the end of the day. This ensures parents receive better information about their 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 satisfactory. 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):

- further enhance knowledge of the legislation in relation to responding to written complaints for parents
- ensure knowledge of first aid is updated and a recognised paediatric first aid qualification is attained in a timely manner
- enhance knowledge of the changes in the legislation regarding meeting the needs of the younger children.

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)