

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 404060                  |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 05 November 2007        |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Victoria Gail Halliwell |

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| <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 three children aged fifteen, twelve and five. She offers care from her semi-detached home on a small modern development which is close to the centre of Bolton. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and the children visit nearby parks for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for two children at any one time and is currently caring for one child under five. The childminder has a recognised qualification in childcare and early years education.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's good health is appropriately promoted. Children are cared for in a warm, clean home and basic routine procedures are implemented to help prevent the spread of infection. For example, anti bacterial sprays are used to clean work surfaces and the towel used for hand drying is changed daily. Children are learning about good hygiene practices through routine

procedures, for example, washing their hands after toileting and before meals. Appropriate exclusion procedures are in place should a child become unwell and the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of the procedure for documenting accidents and the administration of medication.

Children are well nourished in accordance with individual needs and their hours of attendance. The childminder provides a varied range of home cooked meals, such as braised steak and mashed potatoes. Children enjoy fresh fruit as a mid morning snack and drinks are routinely offered, drinks are also provided on request according to individual needs. Children have many opportunities to be physically active and play outside which contributes to a healthy lifestyle. The childminder routinely takes the children to a nearby park where they can run freely and use developmentally appropriate outdoor play equipment.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for in a suitably maintained family home. The childminder creates a welcoming environment, ensuring that children have sufficient space to play and provides a good range of easily accessible play materials. Consequently children are able to select their own resources and make meaningful choices about how they spend their time.

Children move freely around the childminder's home and play safely under her direct supervision. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of safety within her home and has taken steps to ensure that most potential hazards are minimised, by using safety equipment, such as gates and cupboard catches. However, trailing wires in the living room and some low level glazing are a potential hazard.

Children's welfare is appropriately safeguarded by the childminder who has a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and procedures. She is aware of her duty to report any concerns she may have and has documents in place to ensure any incidents are satisfactorily recorded.

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

The provision is good.

Children are settled and comfortable in the childminders care. They enjoy close and reassuring contact with the childminder, who responds warmly as children snuggle against her in the presence of an unknown visitor. Children benefit from a varied and stimulating weekly routine, which includes excellent opportunities for young children to socialise with their peer group. Children attend a wide range of toddler settings, which provide many opportunities for group stories, singing and themed art work, as well as opportunities for children to develop their physical skills indoors as they use large apparatus, such as slides.

Children's activities outside the home are complemented by individual planned activities. The childminder is mindful of the different areas of learning and plans activities to help children make progress. For example, taking children to collect autumn leaves to increase their awareness of the outdoor environment. The childminder is aware of what children can do and plans further activities to build on children's individual abilities, for example, providing opportunities for children who can count by rote, to count meaningfully in everyday situations.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued as individuals and are encouraged to value and appreciate the differences between themselves and others. The childminder takes the children to toddler sessions which values a diverse society and provides opportunities for children to learn about the Christian faith, through stories, songs and craft activities. The childminder has a range of books which promote inclusion and value individuals regardless of height, disability, hair or skin colour.

Children are learning right from wrong because the childminder consistently provides clear explanations for the children. She is a positive role model who encourages the use of please and thank you. She effectively implements positive strategies for managing unwanted behaviour and promotes good behaviour. Children respond positively to verbal praise and stickers which are routinely given.

The childminder works closely with the parents of the children in her care and promotes a relaxed and open relationship. Parents are well informed of the children's activities and experiences on a daily basis, both verbally and through a daily diary. Parents are also provided with some written information about the childminders policies and procedures, although this does not always accurately reflect the childminders knowledge and practice. For example, the childminder has a clear understanding of the procedure to follow in the event of a complaint, but the written information provided for a new parent is not consistent with the childminder's procedure.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. The childminder plans an interesting and varied weekly routine to ensure children are stimulated and have some good opportunities to learn new skills and make progress. The childminder organises space and resources within her home well, so that children have space to play and are able to access play materials independently. Good arrangements are in place to promote children's physical development and outdoor play whilst the rear garden is not suitable for use.

Attention to written documentation is satisfactory. All required records are satisfactorily maintained, including all relevant parental consents to ensure the childminder operates in accordance with parental wishes.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

In response to recommendations raised at the last inspection the childminder has sought additional information to increase her knowledge of child protection procedures and has improved documentation. As a result children's care and welfare has been enhanced.

## **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 any 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):

- complete a risk assessment of the premises and ensure that any hazards to the children are minimised
- develop partnership with parents by devising policies and procedures which help to keep parents fully informed about the service provided.

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)