

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY292743
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 October 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Judith, Mary Horsfall

<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 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged 12 and five years in Littleborough, Rochdale, Lancashire. The playroom, kitchen and ground floor toilet facilities of the house are used for childminding and there is an enclosed patio for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years all day, and three children over five years before and after school on a part-time basis. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows robust health and hygiene guidelines. Strong policies and procedures, such as having individual facecloths and frequently using antibacterial products, reduces the risks of cross contamination. Children are learning about

the importance of a healthy lifestyle because the childminder encourages interesting activities to develop their understanding. For example, a dental nurse has visited the house and talked to the children about dental hygiene, distributed toothbrushes and engaged the children in a puppet activity showing the importance of oral hygiene. Older children participate in regular quizzes to increase their understanding of health and hygiene issues.

Children are well protected in cases of accidents or illness because the childminder has a suitable first aid qualification and an appropriately stocked first aid kit is available. Children are further protected because the childminder has accurate consent forms and completes good quality medication and accident records. Children benefit from regular exercise and visit the park where they develop skills, such as co-ordination and balance.

Health and dietary needs are very successfully met because the childminder works well with parents and complies with any particular dietary requirements. Children are well nourished because the childminder offers a healthy diet of homemade foods and healthy snacks. Children benefit from participation in initiatives, such as 'The Golden Grin' which promotes healthy eating and good dental hygiene. Children are effectively encouraged to eat five portions of fruit and vegetables per day. They really enjoy trying new food and take delight in receiving stickers for attempting new foods, with mango and pineapple being current favourites. Children are learning about healthy eating because the childminder talks to them about foods which are good for teeth and bones. Children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs and have fresh drinking water available at all times.

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

The provision is good.

Children develop an excellent sense of belonging as they are welcomed into very child-friendly accommodation which includes a dedicated playroom incorporating creatively used space. Children's artwork and photographs are attractively displayed which develops a good sense of security and belonging in the children. The accommodation is clean and well maintained throughout. The childminder provides an excellent selection of toys and equipment which meet the needs of the children attending. For example, there is a good range of high quality, child-sized furniture including storage for toys and craft materials at accessible levels.

The childminder ensures the equipment is safe for children because there are regular cleaning routines and toys are well built and suitable for their purpose. Children are well protected because the childminder takes active steps to promote safety both inside and outside the house. For example, an emergency evacuation has been prepared in consultation with the fire service. This is clearly displayed and regularly practised with the children to ensure they are aware of procedures and are confident should an emergency arise.

Children are further protected because the childminder is well informed about current child protection procedures. She has a good knowledge of signs and symptoms of child abuse and has copies of the relevant guidance and contact numbers for referral agencies.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the setting because the childminder robustly supports them in their play and activities. The childminder is highly effective in making sure activities are enjoyable, stimulating and relevant to the children's stage of development. Children's

involvement in focused activities and spontaneous play are carefully recorded. Information gained is expertly used to plan activities that are stimulating and challenging for all children. For example, as children learn the names of the primary colours, the childminder moves them on to experiment with paints and create new colours, using these in their artwork. This activity is extended into other areas of play, such as reading stories in books with many colours effectively used to continue the learning.

Children are fully confident, secure, well behaved and happy in the care of a sensitive childminder who shows genuine affection for the children. Children co-operate very well together and are highly animated in their play, when they share and take turns in games and with resources. Children are beginning to learn to care for each other as the childminder is a first class role model, reminding children to care for each other and, for example, to be considerate of sleeping babies. Their well-being is expertly enhanced because the childminder takes great care in gathering comprehensive information about individual children and ensuring that their individual needs are consistently met. Examples of this include the highly detailed diaries for younger children which the parents also contribute to, ensuring a rounded picture is obtained of both life at home and in the setting.

The childminder makes expert use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to enhance her practice, which has a positive impact on the quality of the young children's learning. Children benefit from a vibrant range of expertly planned, superb activities offered by the childminder both inside the home and in the local community. These include visits to farms, music sessions, walks in the countryside, a wealth of exciting arts and crafts activities and selecting books at the local library. Children are making rapid progress in acquiring new skills and knowledge because the childminder highly motivates the children to learn. For example, children are learning about a sense of place and time because the childminder uses attractive resources and activities to inform them of the date, season and weather. Children's self-esteem is highly developed because methods, such as appropriate, regular praise, rewards systems and stickers develop a sense of self-worth and confidence.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder welcomes all children into the setting. She is aware that some children may have specific needs and has strategies in place to ensure all children receive appropriate support. Children are developing an understanding of responsible behaviour because the childminder talks to them about inappropriate behaviour and deals with this in a fair manner. She uses suitable strategies to promote good behaviour including plentiful praise and stickers as rewards.

Children are cared for by the childminder who places a high priority on working closely with parents. This is developed by a strong 'partnership with parents' policy which is actively implemented. For example, the childminder works closely with parents to ensure a consistent approach towards behaviour issues. Children and parents benefit from comprehensive daily written records which are completed by the childminder and supplemented by parental comments. Children's individual needs are thoroughly met as the childminder has detailed information about children's backgrounds and home routines. Parents are welcome to contact the childminder by telephone throughout the day, particularly during the settling-in periods to be reassured of their children's care. Children are kept safe because the childminder has a comprehensive complaints procedure which is shared with parents.

Children gain a limited awareness of the diversity of the wider world as there is a restricted selection of resources and activities that promote positive images, particularly in the area of disability and gender.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are well protected and cared for because the childminder has a clear understanding of the necessary vetting procedures. For example, the childminder has ensured all checks have been completed on all adults in her home and ensures children are not left alone with any other adults. The childminder has a well informed knowledge of child development and continues to undertake further training to expand her childcare skills.

Space, time and resources are effectively organised to ensure the children benefit from their time with the childminder. Suitable adult-child ratios positively support children's care, learning and play. Comprehensive and effective policies and procedures support children's safety and well-being. These documents are shared with parents to encourage continuity of care between the setting and the child's home. Documentation is securely stored and confidentiality is maintained to ensure children are protected.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

At the previous inspection, the childminder was requested to undertake a suitable first aid course. This has now been successfully completed, resulting in the children being better protected in cases of accident or illness.

### **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):

- continue to develop resources and activities which promote equality of opportunity, particularly in the areas of gender and disability.

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)