



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	313062
<b>Inspection date</b>	16 November 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Wendy Brooks

<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.
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### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2000. She lives with her husband and two children aged 6 and 10 years in Huyton. She is registered to care for five children under 8 years of age.

Children have use of all of the ground floor but are cared for in the main in the playroom. A fully enclosed rear garden provides opportunities for outdoor play. Overnight care is not provided.

The childminder takes children to local schools, nurseries and playgroups.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene by following daily routines such as washing hands after visiting the toilet and wiping their hands and face clean after eating. An effective sick child policy ensures the children's medical needs are well met and they are cared for appropriately if they are ill. However, parental consent for emergency medical treatment or advice is not in place.

Children benefit from a variety of outdoor activities such as trips to the park where they can run around and use large equipment to encourage physical development. The fully enclosed garden at the rear of the house provides opportunities for children to develop their large and fine motor control. During poor weather children enjoy physical activities indoors such as singing action songs and dancing.

Children enjoy a healthy diet. They help themselves to drinking water from individual beakers throughout the day. Dietary needs are well met as the childminder provides nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to the children. Individual preferences are catered for and children talk about their favourite types of vegetables. Children eat a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and are encouraged to try more exotic varieties such as mango, guava, avocado, butternut squash, passion fruit and pineapple.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well-maintained environment where risks are identified and minimised allowing children to move around safely, freely and independently. Children learn how to keep themselves safe on the premises, for example, fire drills are carried out regularly so that children know what to do in the case of an emergency.

Children are kept safe from harm through the childminder's understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee guidelines.

Children independently select toys and resources from a wide range of good quality equipment which is maintained and monitored by the childminder. Resources are stored within easy reach for all children and they are encouraged to tidy equipment away before selecting a new activity.

Children are provided with a quiet area to rest or sleep and show an understanding of

their own needs which are respected by the childminder.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's home. They enter the house confidently and make themselves at home. They relate well to each other and to the childminder and are relaxed in her care. Children become independent as they choose between a variety of books, toys and activities which appeal to all. Children develop their confidence when selecting what to play with.

Children listen and respond to stories, rhymes and songs and enjoy playing imaginatively in the home area. They work together to construct castles and build roads and houses with lego bricks. Children spend their time purposefully and explore a wide range of activities, which contribute to their creativity and imagination. Activities are planned to suit children's individual needs and interests. As a result, children are motivated and make many good links in their learning.

Children are confident speakers and good listeners. They have access to a range of books which they share with the childminder, listening to stories and asking questions which encourages their communication skills. Children are encouraged to think about the events and characters in stories and make links to their own experiences.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and their needs are well met. Children show care and concern for each other and play together harmoniously. An effective behaviour management system using praise and encouragement ensures that children behave very well. Children are supervised well, allowing them the freedom to develop independence but ensuring their safety and wellbeing at all times. They are aware of their own needs and the needs of other children in the setting.

Children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others is developed through a meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world. For example, the children learn about other cultures by reading stories such as "Handa's Surprise", discussing the pictures and tasting exotic fruits. Children also learn about their local community by visiting shops, local parks and libraries on routine visits.

Effective partnerships with parents enhance the care provided to children. Daily verbal exchanges keep parents informed of their child's day. Children's achievements are celebrated; photographs and examples of children's work are sent home for parents to see.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and at ease in the well-organised environment. This means that they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Children's welfare, care and learning are promoted through effective policies and procedures and by ensuring that adult-child ratios are always met.

Parents are kept informed of their children's progress and details about the provision. This contributes to continuity in the children's care.

Space is managed well and resources are effectively organised because the childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of childcare. Children have the use of the whole of the ground floor, although they spend most of their time in the playroom. This attractive, child centred area means that children are able to develop independence in a well-maintained, safe environment.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, the childminder was requested to seek parental acknowledgement for accidents to children. There is now a detailed record of any accidents in place with signatures demonstrating parental acknowledgement.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- ensure parental consent is in place for emergency medical treatment or advice

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)