

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY347284
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 April 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Carla Owen
<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 has been registered since 2007 and lives in Salford with her two adult daughters and granddaughter.

The childminder is registered to care for a total of four children under eight years. She currently has one six year old child on roll who attends before and after school. Children have access to all rooms on the ground floor, and the bathroom and front bedroom on the first floor. The childminder takes and collects children from the local primary school and is a member of the National Childminding association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in clean and well maintained premises. The childminder acts as a good role model to promote good hygiene practises within the home. For example, children are reminded to wash their hands at appropriate times of the day, such as before eating and after toileting. Older children learn to take responsibility as they help to tidy up after messy play

and clean up the table ready for snack. An effective sick child policy is in place which excludes any children who are ill, which reduces the risk of cross infection. Children are comforted appropriately and their parents contacted immediately if they should become unwell whilst in the childminder's care.

Children benefit from fresh air and exercise on a daily basis. For example, they regularly walk to and from school and visit the local parks where they enjoy feeding the ducks, playing games and riding on their bikes.

Children are provided with a variety of healthy snacks and meals which help to promote their growth and development. Drinking water is accessible at all times to allow children to keep themselves hydrated and refreshed throughout their time with the childminder. Systems are in place to record children's dietary requirements and a sample menu is available to parents for them to see the good quality food on offer to their children. Children are consistently reminded to use their manners at all times.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe in the friendly and welcoming environment of the childminder's home. Rooms are colourful and kept at an adequate temperature to ensure children's comfort whilst they play. Areas used by children are well organised and toys are stored at child height and clearly labelled to ensure children can freely make choices in their play. Resources and toys are of a good quality and meet the needs of the children who attend.

The childminder takes positive steps to ensure children are kept safe. Good use is made of safety equipment, for example, a fire guard has been erected in the living room and safety gates are used around the home to manage access to places which may be unsuitable for children. They are learning about personal safety as they are encouraged to stay close when out walking and to hold on to the banister when walking up and down the stairs. Some action has been taken to minimise potential hazards in the home, for example plug socket covers are consistently used, smoke alarms are fitted and all entrances and exits to the premises are kept locked at all times. A fire evacuation procedure has been devised, however this has not yet been practised with the children to ensure they have a clear understanding of how to evacuate the premises in the event of an emergency.

Children are protected as the childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of child protection issues. She is able to identify the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows the procedure to follow if she has any concerns about a child's welfare.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and secure within the childminder's home. A wide range of activities are planned and provided for the children which are developmentally appropriate and meet their interests. They thoroughly enjoy activities, such as face painting, baking, gluing and sticking and painting. Children use their imagination as they engage in role play, create their own puppet shows, play with small world toys and dance.

Children develop their language skills as they read books, sing familiar songs and practise their handwriting skills. Number and mathematical concepts are incorporated into everyday play,

for example, children make an 'ocean in a bottle' using sand, glitter and water. The childminder supports them as they put sand in the bottle through using language such as 'quarter full'. Children are encouraged to practise their calculation skills as they sing songs such as 'five speckled frogs' and complete addition and subtraction sums.

The childminder has an awareness of the 'Birth to three matters' framework but is currently not caring for any children under the age of three. Children enjoy the time they spend with the childminder and state that the best thing about going to her home is 'playing and doing lots of fun things'.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are taken into account as the childminder ensures she gains any relevant information from parents that need to be considered when caring for them. Children are beginning to develop an awareness of cultural diversity as they access some resources which reflect equality of opportunity, however, these are limited. The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude towards the care of children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She understands the importance of working closely with parents and other agencies to ensure children's needs are met.

Strategies that are relevant to the age and maturity of the children are used in respect of behaviour management. Distraction techniques are employed for younger children and older children are given simple and clear explanations for unacceptable behaviour. Children's efforts are celebrated, which helps children feel good about themselves.

Parents are warmly welcomed into the childminder's home at the beginning and end of each day. Regular informal chats ensure parents are kept fully informed of their children's care. A comprehensive booklet containing the childminder's policies and procedures is provided for parents to keep them informed on the childminder's day to day practise. Letters from parents demonstrate they are happy with the service provided. They have peace of mind when leaving their children and state their children love spending time with the childminder.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's positive attitude to improving the quality of care she offers. She recognises her responsibility to protect children from harm and ensures that children are well supervised at all times. The childminder has attended a number of training courses to develop her childminding practise. She currently only cares for a small number of children and ensures they are given equal amounts of attention and support. Space is well organised to allow children to access resources and play freely.

Most aspects of documentation relating to the continuity of care for the children are in place and organised to respect confidentiality. However, some omissions have been identified. Written permission has not been obtained from parents for seeking medical assistance in the event of an emergency and vehicle insurance does not include business cover for transporting minded children.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration, 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):

- ensure written permission is obtained from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure the fire evacuation procedure is practised with the children
- develop resources and opportunities for children to learn about cultural diversity
- ensure vehicle insurance includes business cover for transporting minded 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)