

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY347285
<b>Inspection date</b>	07 April 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Kay Margaret Armstrong
<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 June 2007. She lives with her partner, adult daughter and two children aged 10 and three years. The family has a dog and a parrot. The family lives in the Gorton area of Manchester, close to shops, parks and the library. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. The rear garden is available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children. Currently she is caring for one child who attends on a full time basis. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and she gains support from the local authority.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows robust hygiene procedures to ensure that they are cared for in a warm and clean home. Daily routines, such as washing their hands before meals and after playing outdoors or touching the pet parrot, are beginning to promote children's understanding of good hygiene practices. The risk of cross-infection is further

minimised as the childminder uses colour coded cloths and boards in the kitchen. She also provides children with their own individual face flannels and hand towels.

The childminder discusses and agrees children's dietary requirements with parents. She clearly demonstrates a good understanding of children's dietary needs as she provides them with a broad range of meals and snacks, which are homemade, nutritious and contribute to their physical growth and development. Children remain hydrated as they are able to access drinks freely.

Children participate in a range of activities that contribute to their physical growth and development. They have plenty of fresh air and exercise as they walk to and from school daily. Children regularly play outdoors in the garden, where they are able to access large equipment, such as a climbing frame, swings, bikes and balls. Children are also taken to parks where they are able to run around. Indoors, children enjoy the experience of moving their bodies as they dance to music and laugh and giggle as they copy the antics of an animated figure. These experiences help children to develop physical strength, refine their motor skills and gain control of their bodies.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children benefit from a homely environment where they are beginning to learn about some aspects of managing their own safety. For example, when out walking, the childminder teaches them road awareness and they practise crossing the road safely. Risks of accidental injury to children are mainly minimised because the childminder is vigilant and offers good supervision. She has most safety features in place to ensure the home environment is safe and secure. For example, the main doors are kept secure, socket covers are used and low-level glass has been made safe. However, dangerous substances are stored within children's reach, and the ivy, outdoor electrical sockets and the gas cylinder in the rear garden impact on children's overall safety.

Children use good quality equipment that is appropriate to their age and stage of development. Toys are clean, well maintained and comply with safety standards, minimising risks to children. Resources are organised and easily accessible to the children, which enhances their learning and promotes choice and independence.

The childminder has the required documentation and knowledge in place to ensure children's welfare is adequately safeguarded and promoted. She has a satisfactory understanding of child protection procedures and of her responsibility with regards to keeping children safe. These are in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy in the setting and have lots of support from the childminder, which increases their sense of well-being and security. They build secure relationships with the childminder and have fun as they play. They make confident choices about their play and learning as they choose from the resources which are effectively organised and easily accessible.

The childminder dedicates her time to playing and interacting with the children. Most of the time the childminder is on the floor at children's level providing them with lots of eye contact

and smiles, she cuddles and nurtures children well, which develops a sense of trust. The childminder encourages and supports early communication skills by responding to the children in a positive manner, speaking to them in gentle tones. She echoes children's early speech patterns which promotes their language development and ensures that children know their communication is valued, effectively increasing their self-esteem. Children enjoy exploring toys which are colourful, tactile, have pulsating lights and make sounds, promoting their sensory development. Photographic evidence shows children enjoying a range of activities, such as painting, gluing, threading, dressing up and playing imaginatively. These experiences are fun and help to promote children's overall learning and development.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder speaks very positively to children, using encouragement effectively and positive reinforcement to support their efforts and foster their independence. Good behaviour is acknowledged and praised appropriately. As a result, the children are becoming confident and are developing positive self-esteem. The childminder helps children to understand and maintain simple house rules, such as sharing and taking turns. Consequently, the children behave well and are beginning to develop respect for others.

The childminder has a clear understanding of equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory play. There are some resources available which reflect positive images of our diverse society. However, these are not yet fully developed, which limits children's understanding of difference and the world around them.

The childminder works closely with parents, sharing information on a daily basis to ensure children's individual needs are recognised and their welfare is promoted. Children's home routines are followed, providing a secure and familiar environment for the children, which promotes a sense of belonging and develops trust.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has developed a range of written policies and procedures, which she shares with parents, keeping them well informed. She has a sound understanding of the regulations and meets the requirements, as outlined in the National Standards for childminding. The childminder understands her responsibility to comply with conditions of registration and good systems are in place to ensure children are never left alone with persons not vetted. Records and documentation are well maintained, which contributes to the health, safety and welfare of the children. The childminder cares for children within the required adult to child ratios, which ensures that they are safe and she is able to support their play and learning.

Children are settled and happy in the care of the childminder as they are welcomed into a warm and homely environment. They benefit from the caring attention of the childminder and routines which are familiar and consistent with their life at home. Space is suitably organised and used appropriately for the children's activities. The childminder is proactive in developing her childcare practice, for example, she attends additional training courses to update her knowledge and understanding. 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 the 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):

- improve the safety of the rear garden in relation to the ivy, the electrical socket and the gas cylinder
- ensure the storage of dangerous substances does not pose a hazard for the children
- continue to develop resources which reflect our diverse society.

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)