

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY356841
<b>Inspection date</b>	29 April 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Marina Anna Howarth
<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 2007. She lives with her husband and child aged two years in the Rochdale area. The whole of the ground floor and second bedroom and bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding, and there is an enclosed back garden for outside play. The family have one cat. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group and is a member of the National childminding association. The childminder also holds an early years qualification.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well-maintained environment and the childminder actively promotes good hygiene to prevent the spread of infection and keep children healthy.

Arrangements for first aid and administering medication meet requirements and protect children

and the childminder acts in their best interests when they are ill. Arrangements for pets successfully promote good levels of hygiene and ensure they do not pose a risk to children.

Children are alert and well rested as the childminder gives high regard to their individual routines for rest and sleep. Sleeping and resting are facilitated in a separate area of the premises to ensure children's privacy and comfort. As a result of this, children are comfortable, refreshed and continuity of care is maintained.

Children develop very good large and small physical skills through planned activities both within and away from the childminding setting. They practise climbing and balancing skills during outdoor play and movement and hand eye coordination skills during indoor activities, such as craft activities, using construction equipment and completing jigsaws with dexterity. Children experience the wider community as they play outdoors, go for walks and visit local parks and other places of interest.

Clear records indicate dietary requirements and preferences, and children's individual needs are well catered for in accordance with the parents' wishes. Children have their own drinking vessels with fresh drinking water which they are able to access at any time. Meals and snacks are healthy and nutritious, essential for children's well-being, healthy growth and development. Meal times are used effectively to maximise opportunities for social development and interaction to promote children's growing independence. For example, young children are encouraged to progress from using a spoon to a spoon and fork and are encouraged to feed themselves. Children are given a variety of opportunities to explore food in different ways, such as visits to the shops, growing cress and participating in baking activities. They are also given opportunities to taste food from different cultures developing their awareness and stimulating their taste buds.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a child focused, welcoming environment where their developmental needs are met through the provision of a broad range of safe, good quality resources. These are organised well in low level storage units which enable children to have independent access and view them easily. Children are learning about hygiene and cleanliness as the childminder explains what she is doing when she wipes the table before snack time.

Children's safety is of high priority to the childminder. Risks are identified and effectively minimised through the completion of regular checks and policies and procedures, which are implemented into the setting. Children are being actively encouraged to be aware of their own safety as they take part in regular fire drills which are recorded. They are encouraged to tidy up their toys and there are clear boundaries to keep them safe through gentle reminders given by the childminder.

The childminder is aware of her responsibility to protect children in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board. She has attended relevant training and is confident with regard to following the relevant procedures.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy, settled and relaxed in the company of the childminder. They are motivated, eager and actively participate in and enjoy the activities and experiences offered to them. They are extremely confident and self assured because of the excellent support and encouragement they receive from the childminder. For example, they help themselves to resources and are able to express their creativity freely with the sand and water. Initially the sand and water are presented separately but the children enjoy mixing the two together which the childminder supports. Water play then leads on to cleaning the toy car and watering the plants.

The childminder uses her wealth of experience to plan an extensive range of opportunities and activities, which are organised around particular themes of interest. For example, the current theme is 'animals' so the children have visited the farm and pet shop. They are learning about the life cycle of a caterpillar through the provision of books and observing caterpillars in a container following the process of change.

Children display high levels of confidence in their daily activities and are developing very good independence skills, as they busy themselves and become absorbed in activities and take delight in what they are doing. For example, they enjoy exploring books, turning the pages and using finger puppets to sing songs. They access a wide range of stimulating activities and experiences both within and away from the childminding setting which support the growth of their development across all areas. For example, they explore nature in the woods and produce artwork from the items collected. They visit the seaside and make marks in the sand and they enjoy picnics in the garden. They also attend a variety of child-centred settings away from the childminding premises, such as toddler groups and soft play centres. These encourage the development of social skills and a range of physical skills.

Children benefit from the childminder's highly skilled ability to balance her time interacting with them effectively and at appropriate moments. For example, enabling them to develop their own fun in the outside play area. Younger children benefit from her excellent understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Children are greatly valued and supported by the childminder who has a wonderful manner and overwhelming warmth. They are able to express themselves as they point to items, talk, snuggle up to the childminder and join in simple action songs as they thrive on her infectious enthusiasm.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met well because the childminder works in very close partnership with parents. There are effective systems in place which ensures that information is shared on a continual basis. The childminder has compiled a comprehensive information pack, detailing policies and procedures relating to her practice. This is shared with parents during the induction process. The childminder ensures parents are kept fully informed about their child's progress through daily verbal communication and diaries. Each child also has their own record of achievement containing observations, photographs and their artwork.

The childminder treats children with equal concern valuing their individuality and meeting their needs effectively. She ensures all children have the appropriate opportunities to be involved with a variety of activities and, as a result, is successful in promoting inclusion. However, the

childminder has a limited range of play materials which promote positive images of race, gender and disability. As a result, children do not benefit from having access to resources which show a true representation of the wider community and society.

The childminder implements effective strategies to manage children's behaviour which are consistent and take into account their level of understanding and maturity. This positive approach is shared with parents and establishes continuity whilst maintaining clear and realistic boundaries.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of child development and a high regard for the well-being of children. She plans her time and resources well to ensure children have access to a range of stimulating, fun and interesting activities both inside and outside the home. Space is well organised and child focused which provides children with a welcoming, accessible environment which they are able to explore confidently and safely, promoting their independence. This also ensures children have a strong sense of belonging as they are familiar and at ease with their surroundings.

All documentation is kept in accordance with the National Standards and is used effectively to promote the safety, care and well-being of the children. This is shared with parents and the exchange of information is given high priority on a daily basis. This ensures parents are fully informed about all aspects of their children's care.

The childminder has a wealth of experience working with children and a high commitment to attending further training and updating her skills and knowledge. She has attended a variety of courses and holds an early years qualification, which is reflected in her practice. As a result children continue to benefit greatly from her continued development and good understanding of childcare practice.

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 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 which reflect positive images of culture and disability and activities to develop children's understanding of the wider world.

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)