

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	312248
<b>Inspection date</b>	23 June 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Susan Magaret Lyon

<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 was registered in 1981 to care for six children. She lives with her husband in a semi-detached house in Tameside. The rooms and areas of the house used for childminding are the lounge, playroom, kitchen, downstairs toilet and back garden. There are two pet dogs in the household. The childminder provides an out of school service from local primary schools. There are currently three children on roll.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy through satisfactory hygiene routines, such as washing hands after toileting. Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment. They are adequately protected from infection through an exclusion policy being in place and the availability of tissues and disposable wipes. Children keep fit and active through using a suitable range of equipment in the garden, such as a see-saw, cars and skipping ropes. Children benefit from fresh air and exercise by sometimes walking to and from school. Children partake in quiet time after lunch, promoting their health and well-being.

Children are nourished through healthy snacks. For example, they enjoy fresh fruit daily and wholemeal toast. Children's health and dietary needs are appropriately met through discussions with parents and recording allergies and intolerances. Drinks are provided throughout the day keeping their bodies healthy and hydrated. Children respond well to routine, such as sitting at the table and socialising at snack time, improving their health and well-being. They learn about healthy eating through the childminder talking to them about foods that are good for them.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Space and resources are adequately organised to allow children to move around freely and safely. Play areas are bright, colourful and welcoming to children. Children use suitable toys and equipment due to satisfactory routines for keeping them safe and clean. Children are cared for in a mainly safe and secure environment through the childminder taking some precautions to minimise hazards, for example, socket covers and safety gates are in place. However, some cleaning substances are easily accessible to children in the kitchen, creating a potential risk to their safety. Children are kept safe on outings because the childminder has put adequate measures in place, such as holding hands and walking away from the roads.

Children learn to keep themselves safe through some discussions with the childminder about road safety and stranger danger. Children's safety needs are met whilst on the premises due to the childminder's awareness of fire precautions, for example, smoke alarms are fitted and a fire blanket is in place. However, although an escape plan has been devised, this is not always practised with the children, limiting their understanding of what to do in an emergency situation. Children are kept safe through close supervision. They are adequately protected because the childminder has sufficient understanding of her role in child protection and appropriate procedures to follow if needed.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem through the childminder giving them lots of praise. Children engage in a sufficient range of play activities to foster their development. For example, they enjoy setting up the farm animals and 'going shopping' by pushing the shopping trolley around full of play food. Children learn through the childminder talking to them about numbers and counting the items in the shopping trolley. Children are encouraged to make positive relationships through appropriate discussions about sharing and taking turns. They are freely able to make choices in their play and pursue their interests, for example by selecting a favourite activity.

Organised resources help children to become independent learners. The childminder treats children with great kindness and consideration, and as a result they are happy and settled. Children explore sand and water at times, although opportunities to develop their senses through natural objects and textures are limited. Through a range of art and craft materials, children develop their imagination and creativity thus promoting their sense of achievement and enjoyment, for example, they make shakers using pasta and create leaf pictures.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel a sense of belonging through a trusting and secure relationship with the childminder. Children are valued and made to feel important through their artwork being displayed. Furthermore, new children are helped to gradually settle into the setting through a series of visits with parents. Children develop some awareness of the needs of others through appropriate discussions about being kind and caring to each other. However, limited play resources reflecting equal opportunities hinder their awareness of the wider world. The childminder ensures all children are fully involved in the life of the setting through changing or adapting activities to suit all levels of ability.

Children behave well. They learn right from wrong through clear boundaries and explanations. Children are cared for by a childminder who works with parents to meet their individual needs. For example, signed consent forms are obtained for various aspects of care. Children's care is enhanced through the daily exchange of information regarding their progress and welfare.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are safe and protected through the childminder's awareness of vetting household members. She maintains adequate ratios, thus improving the safety of the children. The childminder organises her time, space and resources to meet children's needs. Children benefit from visits to facilities in the local community, such as the park, shops and library. They learn to socialise and mix with other children through attending local toddler groups.

Children's care and well-being are enhanced through the childminder's commitment to broadening her knowledge and skills through some further training. For example, she has completed the Early Years Foundation Stage training and updated her first aid certificate. All required documentation is in place and up-to-date. Children's records are kept confidential. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to obtain a first aid certificate, make records available, retain records, inform Ofsted of any changes and record complaints. A valid first aid certificate is now in place, records were available at inspection and children's records are retained for the required length of time after the child has left. The childminder knows to keep Ofsted informed of any changes and a record of complaints is maintained. These improvements further enhance the care and safety of children attending the setting.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since 1 April 2004 there have been two complaints, relating to National Standards 3: Care, learning and play and 6: Safety and to National Standards 6: Safety and 7: Health. Ofsted investigated the first complaint and actions were raised and satisfactorily met. The childminder provided an investigation response to the second complaint and remains qualified for registration.

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):

- make cleaning substances safe or inaccessible to children
- provide opportunity for children to practise the emergency evacuation plan
- increase stock of play resources reflecting equal opportunities

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)