



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY250451
<b>Inspection date</b>	19 December 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Angela Cuffe

<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 2002. She lives with her partner and child aged 4 in the south of Manchester. They live within close proximity to shops and parks. The whole of the childminder's property is used for childminding apart from the main bedroom and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children under 5 all day and five children before and after school. The childminder walks to and from schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent / toddler group.

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 are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of hygiene and personal care. They understand about the need to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating to prevent the spread of germs. The worktops in the kitchen and eating area are kept clean. The children enjoy activities which contribute to their good health. They have unlimited use of the garden and are taken out on a daily basis to socialise with other children and benefit from fresh air and exercise. The childminder understands the issues surrounding the safe storage and administration of medication. However, children's safety is compromised because the childminder does not have written permission to administer medication or to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

Children begin to understand the benefit of a healthy diet from the choice of meals and snacks available to them. These include fresh fruit and vegetables and a choice of healthy drinks. All meals are provided by the childminder and included on a menu. The childminder is aware of the need to consider parents wishes when providing food for the children in her care. Children's individual needs are discussed on induction. Children understand the importance of taking regular drinks. They either help themselves or ask for a drink when they are thirsty.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children benefit from a homely environment. Some steps are taken to ensure potential risks to children are minimised. However, children's safety is compromised as there are some hazardous plants in the garden and exposed drains. The childminder has an emergency evacuation procedure in place which is practiced with the children. This ensures that they are clear on what to do in the event of a fire. The children are beginning to learn about how to keep themselves safe as the childminder talks to them about dangers within the home and on outings.

There is a satisfactory range of resources available to meet the needs of younger children. However toys need to be improved to stimulate the children more effectively. Toys and equipment are clean, well maintained and comply with safety standards. Resources are effectively organised to promote choice and independence, which enhances children's play and learning.

The childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibilities with regard to child protection, in line with the Local Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and relaxed in the childminder's home. The warm and comforting environment and appropriate interaction helps develop warm and caring relationships with the childminder and each other. They are given appropriate attention as the childminder is aware of their needs. She gives them support when needed as she sits on the floor supporting the children if necessary. Children are motivated and interested in the age appropriate activities. The children have unlimited access to the garden for outdoor play and are taken out on a regular basis where they socialise with other children.

Children develop independence as they play on the floor and explore the environment. They move around and freely choose what they would like to play with. They freely make choices from the planned activities and toys available. The childminder gives them the necessary support when needed. Children are happy and secure they confidently play together.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children value each other as individuals. They learn about different cultures through the activities provided and the equipment available to them. They are made aware of the wider world through regular outings and information in books. Children express their needs naturally to enable the childminder to gain a better understanding and build routines. As a consequence the children are happy and settled in the childminder's care.

Good behaviour, children's efforts and achievements are acknowledged, recognised and praised appropriately. Consequently children are confident and have high self-esteem. The childminder speaks positively to the children although some negative words are used. She generally supports and helps them to understand simple house rules, such as sharing and taking turns. As a result, the children behave well. They interact well with each other most of the time with some minor disputes. They understand their boundaries and respond well to discussions and occasional reminders from the childminder. Information about the children's progress is shared with the parents verbally on a daily basis.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is enhanced by the childminder's organisation. The daily routine offers a balance of adult led activities, free play and quiet times. The childminder ensures children have sufficient space in order to play in comfort. She organises play materials to promote children's independence and encourage choices about their play and learning. Children are at home in the comfortable and welcoming

surroundings and have settled in well.

The majority of records and documentation are in place. This contributes to the continuity of care of the children. First aid and other relevant training is kept up to date. As a result children's safety, security and the childminder's partnership with parents is enhanced.

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

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure the chest of drawers are safe, ensure children have appropriate activities to promote equality of opportunities and equipment to meet the needs of older children.

The chest of drawers has been discarded.

The childminder has obtained some toys and equipment that promote diversity and has some games for older children. Improvement is still required so that equipment meets the needs of all children and a further recommendation has been raised.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Ofsted received concerns regarding National Standard 1 (Suitability) . An Ofsted Early Years childcare inspector conducted a visit to the provision on 22 November 2005. Ofsted are satisfied that the provider 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):

- obtain written permission to administer medication and to seek emergency medical advice or treatment

- obtain toys and equipment to meet the needs of all children
- ensure safety of the drains and poisonous plants.

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)