



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	405177
<b>Inspection date</b>	18 January 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Wendy Fitton

<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 lives in the Rossendale area of Lancashire. She works with her mother who is also registered and has been registered for 13 years. The majority of care takes place at her mother's premises but her own property is also registered for childminding.

There are currently 6 children on roll under 5 years.

Children access two lounges, rear garden and a bathroom upstairs. They do not access bedrooms.

The childminder and her mother run a local toddler group and children are taken to parks, library and for walks in the community.

The childminder has completed up to date First Aid training and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children benefit from regular relaxation and sleeps to keep them healthy. Babies sleep in a travel cot in the front lounge and older children have a quiet story time on the settee. Children's health needs are well met owing to the childminder following health and hygiene policies and procedures. For example, accident, medication, sickness and emergency procedures are in place. Current First Aid training has been carried out and a well stocked First Aid kit is accessible. Children are not exposed to any infection as the childminder follows good cleaning procedures and effective nappy changing procedures are observed to be in place.

Children stay healthy and understand simple hygiene procedures following a clear routine for hand washing. They know that they need to wash their hands after the toilet and before and after foods. During discussion with the children, they state that they need to go upstairs and wash their hands in the sink and then germs will not spread.

Children really enjoy physical activities as they participated in a music and movement game during the visit. Children practiced balancing, jumping, marching and dancing. Children walk out into the community to parks and the local toddler group. During the summer months a side garden is available and there is a stock of physical play equipment to keep them fit and healthy. As there are two childminder's working together, younger children go out in their pram for daily fresh air to relax them, whilst older children participate in a physical activity.

Children are well nourished as the childminder provides all home cooked foods, offering the children a variety of well balanced meals and snacks. Children's individual records contain all dietary requirements and are discussed with parents. At present two children require special diets and meals are planned to ensure that all children are offered options that do not single children out. The childminder provides vegetarian foods as well as meat products for all the children according to their requirements and fresh fruit, vegetables and salads feature daily. Children are offered dried fruits and carrot sticks for their snack.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very safe and secure both inside and outside the premises. As there are two childminders working together, supervision is vigilant. There are two exits from

the premises that are clear, the garden is secure and suitably fenced. All safety aspects are in place, including a fireguard, fire blanket, smoke detectors, safety gate across the kitchen and stairs and sockets are covered.

Children are well cared for in a safe, secure and homely environment that is clean and well maintained. Children access two lounge areas, one for quiet play and rests and one for main activities. Rooms are safe and secure and children can move freely and safely without hazards or obstacles. Some children were observed playing in a group on the floor and others were sitting at a small table playing with jigsaws and a matching game, babies were relaxing on the floor or on the settee with the childminder.

Children make choices from safe, suitable equipment that promotes their all round learning and development needs. For example, small table and chairs, settees and chairs, travel cot, potty, step for the toilet, double buggy, car seats, jigsaws, books, art and craft materials, letter and number magnets, dolls, role play equipment, baby activity toys, Lego and outdoor equipment.

Children are protected from harm owing to the childminder being aware of procedures to follow in the event of a concern. She is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and would speak to parents if appropriate, but there is no written information for parents to refer to in the event of an allegation against the childminder.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very confident and comfortable in the environment. On arrival the children were finishing their lunch, they sat at the small table chatting to the childminders and each other, demonstrating that they were in a good routine and that a visitor did not upset them. After lunch the children had free access to the toys set up around the lounge. They played imaginatively with the role play equipment and the childminders engaged the children in a hospital scenario, with lots of discussion about not feeling well, needing an operation and using the equipment to examine and listen to heart beat and chest. Children express themselves freely in a caring, homely environment where they have lots of adult attention according to their needs.

Children are provided with a broad range of interesting and enjoyable activities and experiences. For example, the two childminders run a local toddler group once a week and take the minded children to socialise and play with other children. Children have experience of floor play, table top activities, music and movement, art and crafts, story time, role play, construction and outdoor play. Children walk up to the local park and meet with other local children and childminders.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are met as the childminder records all health and dietary needs in liaison with parents. Children are involved in all aspects of the routine according to their ages and stages of development. As the two childminders work together children are grouped to ensure that activities are suitable and that all children can participate. Younger children sleep and then activities are planned for the older age range, for example, the hospital role play and matching dominoes. Children show they are secure and confident as the childminder shows a caring and loving approach by nurturing and supporting the children.

Children are beginning to understand the limits and boundaries of the household as the childminder works to positive strategies of distraction, alternative toys, calming them down away from the area. Children are helping each other to self discipline as they tell each other not to climb or sit on the arm of a chair, share toys and be kind to each other. Children feel good about themselves as the childminder positively praises them and uses positive language, good boy, good girl.

Children's needs and routines are shared with parents on a daily basis when they collect their child. One parent stated that she was very happy with the care provided and that she felt that because there were two adults caring for her child that safety and care and attention would be of good quality. Parents complete a care contract and have information for making a complaint, policies and procedures are shared on a verbal basis.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from an environment that is satisfactorily organised to meet all needs and provide a warm, safe and welcoming environment. Children are well supported as there are two childminders working together and the children receive individual adult attention according to their stages of development, whilst domestic tasks and routines are carried out by a second adult.

Children's care is supported through satisfactorily organised documentation. Paper work is stored on a file and promotes confidentiality. All regulatory documentation is up to date, available for inspection and includes, daily attendance registers, children's personal details, medication and accident records and signed consent from parents for care and activity procedures. There are some organisational policies and procedures that are shared with parents on a verbal basis but these are basic in their content. The certificate of registration is not displayed.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that attention was given to safety aspects in relation to radiators, fire blanket and kitchen cupboards and ensure that accident records contain sufficient details.

The childminder has now monitored the temperature of the radiators, turning them off during the time that minded children are present, a fire blanket that conforms to

British Safety Standards is sited in the kitchen and a safety gate limits access to the kitchen area so that children's safety is now enhanced. The accident recording book now details how and what treatment was given following an accident. Therefore, parents are fully informed of any details and this protects children's welfare.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004.

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):

- develop a child protection policy and procedure that is clear and understood by parents
- display the registration certificate
- develop organisational policies and procedures to keep in line with current legislation and to inform parents.

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)