

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	307328
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 April 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Jane Pamela Berry

<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 1990. She lives with her family, including her husband and teenage children in a semi-detached property in the Wardley area of Salford.

The childminder is currently registered for 3 children under eight, although a variation request to increase the number of children to 5 has been received and has yet to be approved. The childminder has also requested that she works with named assistants, subject to satisfactory clearances and parental consent having been obtained for these individuals.

All areas of the ground floor are used for childminding. There is an enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is currently caring for 4 children some of whom attend on a part time basis. The childminder has established links with the Childminding Development Worker from the local authority, Early Years team.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from consistent routines, ensuring that they are secure and understand what is happening. They experience warm relationships, with adults and their peers helping them feel secure and loved. Children are very able, they play confidently accessing toys and climbing on and off equipment. Secure attachments are evident between the childminder and the children, for example, following her when she goes out of the room, sharing cuddles and warm affectionate hugs.

Healthy living is encouraged, for example, through good hygiene routines being followed and children's dietary needs being met. Children's needs are prioritised, mealtimes are well organised, food is prepared in advance, ensuring time is spent with the children. The childminder works with parents regarding the children's dietary needs. Children eat well balanced, nutritional home made meals, with fruit served as a second course. Children help themselves to drinks that are readily accessible and are encouraged to use self-help skills, such as feeding themselves at the table with a fork and a spoon.

Children are encouraged and assisted as they practise skills, dressing themselves, taking off and putting on their own shoes and fastening their coats. Children are cared for sensitively and parents are advised and asked to collect them, if they become unwell, thus ensuring their health and welfare is promoted and the risk of cross infection is minimised.

Children enjoy the many opportunities to experience the outdoor environment, even in poor weather they watch the birds visiting the bird feeder in the garden. They go for walks daily and have opportunities for climbing, riding and balancing at the local playgroup and when visiting the park. Children have good access to building blocks, jigsaws and mark making materials, helping them develop their fine manipulative skills and co-ordination.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's welfare is maintained, by the childminder supervising them at all times, with particular attention being paid to the younger children, keeping them safe from harm. Some improvements were identified in order to ensure that the environment is safe, such as furniture that poses a potential hazard, being removed or stored out of the children's reach and safety equipment, for example, the fireguard and the gate being secured to the wall, thus minimising potential hazards. The childminder is currently addressing these issues in order to ensure children's safety.

Children benefit from equipment and furniture is suitable and safe. They move around and play in relaxed, comfortable surroundings. Toys are organised in such a way that they are accessible to the children, however the younger children have limited access to sensory play materials. Children have some access to equipment reflecting different lifestyles, such as a black doll and books with positive images of race and culture being portrayed, although this aspect is insufficiently developed. Children's awareness of disability is not promoted enough through accessible play materials.

The childminder demonstrated a satisfactory knowledge of child protection procedures, such as contact numbers being readily available in the event of a concern, thus ensuring children are safeguarded.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have warm and affectionate relationships with the childminder and the other children. Children access a selection of equipment, meeting their individual needs. The children operate electronic and sound activated toys, they are very sociable and play happily together. They enjoy playing with the toys, such as cuddling a doll and pushing the pram, manipulating puzzles, books, and drawing materials. They also have access to a computer to support their learning.

The children have good language skills, and communicate their needs effectively, even at a very young age they speak clearly as they point out their favourite toys. Older children colour and stick materials and have some opportunities to participate in activities that increase their awareness of other lifestyles, such as visiting China Town and playing with paper dragons for Chinese New Year. The children however have limited choices and experiences regarding experimental and investigative play. The childminder is interested in developing and extending the activities provided and has made enquiries regarding further training and development opportunities.

The childminder currently has limited knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework and is caring for two children under three years of age. Through discussion it was established that the childminder has yet to develop an extensive range of experiences for the children. She is however interested, well-motivated and has a positive attitude to self-development. The childminder agreed to further develop the range of activities for the children in order to support their learning and development.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are engaged in age appropriate activities. The childminder takes an interest in what they do and say and supports them in their play and learning. She is attentive to children's individual needs and manages their behaviour well, for example, focussing on the things children are good at and distracting the children when conflict arises. Young children share resources very well considering their ages and stages of development. Conflict that arises is handled skilfully. Children are learning social skills, such as saying please and thank you and how to take turns and share equipment. Children behave and respond well to the positive strategies that are used by the childminder when conflict arises, such as the use of distraction when children want to play with the same toy.

The childminder is aware of issues relating to special needs, however this is an area identified for further development.

Children visit the local playgroup socialising with other children and they are gaining experiences of the wider community, when they go shopping and visiting a café. The children are encouraged to be involved in family life and have good relationships with extended family members, such as the childminder's mother who is a regular visitor to the household.

The childminder encourages prospective parents to bring their children to visit regularly, gradually building the time that the children stay. The childminder has good settling in procedures which help to form relationships, build children's confidence and promotes children's self-esteem. Children benefit from effective partnerships that are actively encouraged through daily interactions, where information is shared readily. Before children attend the provision

their health, medication, and individual dietary needs are discussed and agreed with parents. Parents receive information daily on what their children have been doing, this occurs usually when they collect their children. Parents share information such as, telling the childminder about what has happened over the weekend. The childminder talks to the children about their personal experiences, thus building relationships and developing their language and understanding. This demonstrates that the childminder is committed to the partnership ethos and builds good working relationships with parents and the children in her care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has applied to have a named assistant. At the time of the visit her mother was helping her to escort children from school. As clearances have not been obtained for this individual, this could place children in a vulnerable situation. The childminder had also not included a child under the age of eight, within the number of children permitted under her current registration. A variation to increase the number of children was also requested at the visit, but has yet to be approved. These oversights are not in keeping with the requirements of her registration and the childminder was informed of this on the visit. The childminder has agreed to take the appropriate steps to rectify the situation, with immediate effect.

The childminder has developed a system for recording incidents. Children's emergency contact and health details, parental consents, including for transportation in the car have been obtained and are readily accessible. Accident records and medication records are all satisfactorily in place. The insurance certificate was not available for inspection at the visit.

Routines support children's independence and natural curiosity as learners, contributing to their welfare. The childminder has completed first aid training, giving her up to date information of how to meet children's needs in the event of an accident. The certificate of registration is prominently displayed for parents.

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 provider was asked to improve the range of toys and activities to meet the needs of children under three years, to ensure that resources reflect diverse lifestyles and to make equipment readily accessible to the children. The childminder was also asked to develop a system for recording incidents and to improve organisation and to make documentation readily accessible.

The childminder has re-organised the equipment enabling children to have greater access to resources for play and learning. She has also extended the activities to provide children with a wider selection of experiences, although this continues to be an area identified for further improvement. The progress since the last inspection, is however noted and is positively acknowledged. Incident reports are now satisfactorily in place. The access to documentation continues to be identified for further development, as there were some gaps in the documentation available for inspection.

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

There are no complaints to report.

## 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):

- minimise all potential hazards within reach of the children
- access training and development opportunities, for example the Birth to Three Matters Framework or Developing Childminding Practice in order to build on and compliment the activities provided, thus ensuring children reach their full potential
- develop a system that ensures the number of children stated on the certificate of registration is not exceeded at any time and that adults without satisfactory clearances are not left unsupervised with children at any time
- ensure all children's attendances are satisfactorily recorded, and that all the required documentation is available for inspection at any time

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)