



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY258842
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 January 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Kay Margaret Armstrong

<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 has been registered since July 2003. She lives with her partner and their two children, aged 4 and 8 years. The family live in the Moston area of Manchester, close to play groups, shops, parks and the library. Children have access to the whole of the ground floor, which consists of a through sitting room and dining area, the kitchen. The children also have access to the rear bedroom and bathroom facilities on the first floor. The gardens to the front and rear of the property are available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a total of five children. She currently cares

for three children, two of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and she gains support from the local authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Good hygiene procedures are robustly implemented to ensure that children are cared for in a warm, clean, home minimising the risk of cross-infection. Daily routines, such as washing their hands before meals and after nappy changes, promote children's understanding of good hygiene practices and is beginning to foster their self-help skills.

Children enjoy a broad range of activities that contribute to their physical growth and development. They have plenty of fresh air as they are taken out daily. Regular visits to childminding groups and toddler groups provide the opportunity for the children to run around and use large equipment, such as a climbing frame and slide. These experiences help children to develop physically and gain control of their bodies.

The childminder discusses and agrees children's dietary requirements with parents. She provides children with a very good range of meals and snacks which are nutritious and contribute to their physical growth and development. Children remain hydrated as the childminder encourages them to drink regularly. They are able to independently help themselves to drinks of juice and water which are easily accessible.

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

The provision is good.

The children benefit from a homely environment where the childminder places a high priority on safety. They are able to play freely and safely, as the childminder is vigilant and has a good recognition of the need for a balance between safe limits and freedom. The children are beginning to learn about how to keep themselves safe. The childminder gently reminds them about being careful within the home, as she encourages them to put away toys that they are not playing with, so they do not trip over them. However, children's safety is compromised, as although the childminder has an written emergency evacuation procedure in place, she has not discussed or practiced this with the children.

There is a good range of resources available to meet the needs of the children. Toys are clean, well maintained and comply with safety standards. Resources are organised and many are easily accessible to the children, which enhances their learning and promotes choice and independence.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted through the childminder's

understanding and knowledge of the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures. She has written child protection procedures in place which are shared with parents.

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

The provision is good.

The children's welfare is promoted and their individual needs are met through the range of activities that include opportunities for social, emotional, physical and intellectual development. The relaxed atmosphere enables children to settle quickly. The children are happy and have a really positive relationship with the childminder. The childminder offers comfort and reassurance through appropriate cuddles and hugs. Children have lots of support and attention from the childminder, which increases their sense of security. However, development of the childminder's knowledge of the Birth to Three matters framework would enhance the care for children under three.

The childminder provides a wide range of activities. She spends time sitting on the floor playing and interacting with the children who are engaged, motivated and interested. Children's understanding, language and vocabulary are extended as the childminder introduces colour and mathematical concepts into the activities. The children really enjoy looking at a favourite book and are developing fine motor skills as they thread buttons on to laces. The children giggle and laugh as they have fun while they dance with the childminder. Children are able to access resources freely, promoting their choice and independence.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder speaks very positively to children, using encouragement effectively to support their efforts and foster their independence. Good behaviour, is acknowledged, celebrated and praised appropriately. As a result, the children are confident and have a high self-esteem. Children are comfortable in expressing their needs, which the childminder recognises and meets appropriately. The childminder supports children to understand and maintain simple house rules, such as sharing and taking turns. As a result, the children behave well and play co-operatively.

The childminder has a good understanding of equal-opportunities and anti-discriminatory play. There is a range of resources available reflecting our diverse society and this promotes children's knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Consequently, children are becoming aware of difference and developing a positive attitude to others.

Children benefit from the very positive relationships that the childminder has established with their parents, as their individual needs are consistently recognised and met. Informal discussions keep the childminder up-to-date with the children's routines and any changes that may have occurred, ensuring that children are cared

for in accordance to their parent's wishes.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by the childminder's organisation. As they are welcomed into her home, which is clean, safe and warm. All records and documentation required by the regulator are in place. The childminder is proactive in developing her child care practice, she has attended additional training and is currently completing an NVQ in childcare. She has developed a range of written policies which she shares with parents, keeping them well informed; this contributes to the continuity of care for the children.

The childminder ensures that the children have sufficient space in order to play in comfort. Play materials are organised effectively to promote children's independence, encouraging them to make choices about their play and learning. The children enjoy a range different play opportunities away from the home, such as visits to the local groups and the library.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection recommendations were raised relating to; keep appropriately signed consent forms for all childminding arrangements, provide access to domestic and imaginative play materials and develop a range of resources that reflect our diverse society. A recommendation was also raised to ensure that the gas appliances and harmful substances stored in the bathroom did not pose a hazard to the children. This recommendation related to her previous property and is therefore no longer relevant.

The childminder has fully addressed these issues. All appropriate written consents are now in place, promoting children's welfare and ensuring children are cared for in accordance to parents wishes. There is a range of resources available to the children which reflect our diverse society such as dolls, puzzles and books. Children have access to dressing up clothes, tea sets and cooking equipment. Consequently, children are able to express themselves imaginatively and their knowledge and understanding of the world around them is promoted and extended.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

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 children's awareness of the emergency evacuation procedure
- develop knowledge and understanding of the Birth to Three Matters framework.

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)