



## 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 1987. She lives with her partner and three children aged 18, 15 and 14 in the south of Manchester. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, except for the conservatory. The bathroom facilities are situated on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children on a part-time basis. The childminder attends local parent toddler groups.

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 talk about the need to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating to prevent the spread of germs. The babies equipment and changing area are kept clean as well as the worktops in the kitchen and eating area. 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 seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

Children begin to understand the benefit of a healthy diet from the choice of snacks available to them. These include fresh fruit and vegetables and a choice of healthy drinks. All meals are provided by the parents. 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 well maintained, homely environment. Positive steps are taken indoors and outdoors to ensure that all potential risks to children are minimised. However, children's safety is compromised because there are some hazardous plants in the garden, the lock on the bathroom door is accessible to the children and fire drills are not practiced with the children. 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 the children. 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 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.

The children are comfortable and relaxed in the childminder's home. The sharing of experiences as they talk and laugh together helps to 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 joining in with their games and then watches as they happily play together. Children are motivated and interested in the range of challenging age-appropriate indoor and outdoor play 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 freely make choices about how they wish to spend their time. They enjoy each other's company and form strong friendships. They share their toys and talk about the tower that they are building and the wooden fish. Babies are given opportunities to play on the floor and explore the environment and toys. However the childminder is not using Birth to Three Matters.

### **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. She supports and helps them to understand simple house rules, such as sharing and taking turns. As a result, the children behave well. They interact with each other in a positive manner. 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 good balance of adult-led activities, free play and quiet times. The childminder ensures that 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 develop sensory experiences for babies, ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti discriminatory practice with regard to disability and request written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder has not yet developed sensory experiences for babies and is not using Birth to three matters. A further recommendation has been raised. The childminder has obtained books and jigsaws that promote positive images of different cultures and also uses toy and book libraries. The childminder has not yet obtained written permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and a further recommendation has been raised.

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

Ofsted received concerns relating to National Standard 1 Suitable Person and National Standard 14 Documentation. An Ofsted Early Years childcare inspector visited the provision on 21 September 2005. Actions were raised and satisfactorily met by the registered provider. 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 from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure safety of bathroom lock and hazardous plants
- ensure fire drills are practiced with children on a regular basis
- provide activities to help children's development in line with the aspects and approach described in the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) publication *Birth to three matters*.

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)