



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	405206
<b>Inspection date</b>	16 May 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Harpal Thandi

<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 was registered in 1998. He lives with his wife in Fulwood, Preston. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding seven children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder also attends the local toddler group.

The childminder regularly works with another childminder.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are healthy because the childminder has an understanding of good hygiene practices. He follows good hygiene procedures, for example, he uses a good quality anti-bacterial spray to wipe down his work surfaces and the high chairs after use. He ensures children use individual wipes to clean their hands before eating. He also takes a dry hand wash with him during outings, in case there are no hand washing facilities. This helps to prevent the spread of infection.

Children benefit from having fresh air and exercise as they enjoy outdoor play and physical activities on a regular basis. They enjoy playing in the garden on the sit-and-rides and the wheeled toys. They go for walks to the local park and in the local area where they also learn about the environment. This promotes their physical development and contributes to their good health. Children are also able to rest and sleep according to their individual needs, for example, two children sleep in their prams, in line with their routine at home.

Children learn about the importance of good nutrition through the range of healthy, nutritious snacks and meals available to them. All meals are home cooked and include casseroles, pasta dishes, fruit and yogurts. Children have regular access to drinks throughout the day in their individual cups. This aids the development of both physical and mental growth.

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

The provision is good.

Children feel secure and at ease because they are cared for in a welcoming environment. Examples of their art work are on display on the walls. Space is organised well as the children have access to all ground floor rooms. They move freely between the rooms which promotes their sense of independence. Children happily select activities from the accessible range of toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. These are regularly monitored by the childminder to make sure they are safe and appropriate to the children's age and stage of development.

Children are kept safe and secure because the childminder has taken steps to ensure the children's safety both inside and outside the home. All necessary health and safety equipment, such as stair gates, safety catches and finger guards are in place. To further ensure the children's safety, the childminder replaces high chairs and car seats every five years. The childminder helps children to understand how to keep themselves safe, for example, by practising the emergency evacuation procedures and ensuring they have sun cream and hats on before they play in the sun.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues. For example, he is alert to the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows the procedures to follow if he has concerns about the well-being of a child in his care.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a warm, close relationship with the childminder and settle well, which contributes to a sense of belonging and has a positive effect on their emotional well-being. Children's language and communication skills are developed through on-going discussion and by encouraging younger children to sound out words. Children's vocabulary is expanded as new words are introduced to them by the childminder, for example, as they engage in conversation.

The children enjoy shopping trips as they feel involved and they are learning in an interesting and exciting manner. They look at the labels together, count items as they put them in the trolley and talk about the shapes of the tins and boxes. They continue the learning on the way home, as they look for different colour cars, compare the size of cars and vans and count the vehicles driving past.

Children enjoy baking activities, such as making biscuits. They help to weigh out the ingredients, stir the mixture and cut out the dough shapes. As a result, children learn to co-operate and take turns. The older children take responsibility by helping the younger children in their play and they all help to tidy away the toys before lunch time. Children learn to socialise as they play with their friends at toddler group and enjoy trips to the local café.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder offers a good induction period which is set up after discussion with parents. Children visit a few times for settling in sessions, initially with their parents and then on their own. They are encouraged to bring favourite items from home, to help them to settle. Parents are given a sheet to complete which provides the childminder with details of the child's family and any specific needs, for example, anything the child may find alarming. As a result, good relationships are established and children feel secure and settle in well. Parents all receive a full set of his policies. However, the complaints policy is out of date as the childminder is not aware of the revised procedures for dealing with complaints from parents.

The childminder uses age appropriate strategies to manage unwanted behaviour, for example, distraction and diverting their attention onto another activity. He explains why the behaviour is unacceptable. As a result, children learn quickly which behaviour is inappropriate and behave well. Positive behaviour is rewarded through praise, clapping hands and by giving hugs. Children gain an understanding of diversity through access to a selection of appropriate resources which include a range of multi-cultural dolls, play figures with disabilities, books and posters. They also take part in celebrating various festivals through out the year. These include Diwali, Hanukah and Easter. As a result, children gain a positive view and understanding of their own, as well as other cultures.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease in the setting as it is organised and effective in meeting their needs. They have access to all the ground floor of the house and the outdoor play area. This maximises their opportunities for all round development. They are able to initiate their own play and learning in an environment where the resources are easily accessible to them, for example, in low-level boxes and shelves.

Information is shared both verbally and in a written format with parents and good communication ensures children's welfare, care and learning is fostered well. The childminder has a positive commitment to his ongoing training needs which enhances the quality of care he offers to children. All legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to practice and record the emergency evacuation procedure and improve the system for recording and informing parents of incidents involving physical intervention. The childminder now regularly practices the emergency evacuation procedures with children and he has set up an incident record to record any significant incidents.

As a result of these actions being addressed, the children's overall safety and well-being has been enhanced.

## **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):

- ensure the revised procedures for dealing with any complaints from parents are implemented.

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)