



## Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 306613       |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 06 June 2006 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Zoe Smith    |
| <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 1990. She lives in the Offerton district of Stockport with her husband and their three children who are aged fifteen, thirteen and four years. Children have access to all rooms on the ground floor, the bathroom on the first floor and the enclosed rear garden.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children and is currently minding three children on a combination of part-time places. Children can be taken to and collected from local schools. The childminder attends local toddler groups with minded children. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy participating in a wide range of physical play activities, which help them gain good control and coordination over their bodies. They enthusiastically play on the wheeled toys, jump on the trampoline, bounce on the space hoppers, throw and kick balls. The children's day is planned to provide them with frequent opportunities for physical activity in the garden and through walks and visits to parks. This promotes the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and provides children with lots of fresh air and exercise.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean home. Effective hygiene procedures and routines are implemented by the childminder. This reduces the risk of cross contamination and spread of infection. Good hygiene practices help children learn how to look after their bodies. They know to wash their hands after using the toilet, handling the rabbit and before eating.

Children enjoy a varied and nutritious diet that includes fresh fruit, salad and vegetables. Dietary requirements are agreed with parents and children's preferences well catered for. They receive food and drinks in sufficient quantities to meet their needs. Children monitor their growth on a height chart and participate in activities that reinforce the importance of eating healthily. For example, they colour in pictures of fruit and vegetables, they read comics on cookery and regularly bake with the childminder.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and appropriately maintained home. Educational posters and examples of the children's creative and art work are displayed to create a stimulating and child friendly environment. Potential dangers have been identified and effective safety precautions followed to minimise them. For example, safety gates, plug socket covers and smoke detectors are in place. The childminder is vigilant in her supervision of the children. The childminder has written safety and evacuation procedures and regularly discusses with the children how to evacuate the house in an emergency. However, practice fire drills are not conducted on a regular basis. Therefore the childminder and children are not well practised in evacuation procedures.

Consistent boundaries provide children with a good balance between freedom and safe limits. Simple rules and routines are used to promote and protect their safety. For example, they know not to climb on the furniture and to help tidy toys away before getting different ones out. Their awareness of how to keep themselves safe is reinforced through activities and discussions. They discuss how to cross the road safely, dress up in the uniforms of the emergency services and listen to stories about stranger danger and road safety. Children choose what to play with from an excellent variety of safe, good quality, age appropriate toys and equipment. The childminder carefully monitors children to make sure they choose resources appropriate to their age and development. Children's safety and protection is of utmost importance to the childminder. She has up to date knowledge of first aid practice and child protection procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children are content and thoroughly enjoy the time they spend at the childminder's home. There is lots of activity, chatting and singing as they play and learn. Children become independent as they choose what to play with from the excellent variety of easily accessible good quality resources and activities. The children's day is planned to provide a well balanced range of stimulating and interesting activities that provide challenging expectations. Children have time to be active and to relax. They sit quietly to watch children's programmes on the television. Children are making good progress in communicating and developing language skills. The childminder talks to children about what they are doing and asks questions which require them to consider and think before they answer. They love to join in singing sessions and sit and look at books with the childminder.

Children become engrossed in their pretend play using gestures and actions. They eagerly dress up, take the dolls for walks in the pushchairs and spontaneously start to dance. Children have opportunities to explore a very good range of sensory and creative activities, such as painting, dough, sand and water play. They relish playing with the dough, younger children enjoy banging it and squeezing it through their fingers and older children skilfully use tools to make models. They happily play in the sand, carefully filling up buckets using spoons and spades to make pretend snacks and sandcastles. Younger children love to play with the home made shakers, vigorously shaking them and listening to the sound the dried pasta makes. The childminder is knowledgeable about and uses early year's guidance, such as the Birth to three matters framework to plan play and activities. This ensures that children are making good progress in all areas of their development

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

The provision is good.

Children have access to a very good range of books and imaginative toys that provide positive images of culture, gender and disability. Activities are provided to help children learn about their own and the religious and cultural beliefs of others. They made dragons for Chinese New Year and cards for their parents and pictures of chickens for Easter. This is helping them to understand the wider world and respect differing lifestyles.

Children are developing a good sense of belonging and knowledge of their local community. They look forward to visiting the library, attending toddler groups and trips to local parks. Sometimes they go further a field to museums, country parks and places of interest. Children relish these interesting and enjoyable experiences and the opportunity to travel on buses and trains.

The childminder skilfully supports children to share and take turns. They regularly play board and card games, which help them to understand rules and learn how to play fairly. Children are responsive to the encouragement and meaningful praise that they receive from the childminder. They are finding out about the boundaries that are in place and behave well.

The childminder has an effective partnership with parents; they speak very highly of the childminder and the care their children receive. The childminder takes positive steps to ensure that they are kept well informed about all relevant policies and procedures. Regular discussions and daily diaries keep parents up-to-date about their child's day, progress and any issues.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and settled in the friendly and well organised home. The home is set out to provide different types of play and activity areas. Children are confident and eagerly explore their surroundings and initiate their own play. The childminder organises her day so she is able to give the children lots of support, encouragement and attention. She regularly attends short childcare training courses. This is enabling her to continually develop her childminding skills and enhance the service provided. All records and documentation are in place, well maintained, appropriately stored, and retained for inspection. Written policies and procedures are used to effectively underpin practice and provide continuity of care for children.

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

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection three recommendations were agreed to develop the quality of care. The childminder has minimised hazards in the rear garden and provided a carbon monoxide detector to ensure the safety of gas appliances. This keeps the children safe and protects their well being. Toys and equipment are now effectively organised. This gives the children plenty of choice and promotes their independence.

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

There are no complaints to report. The provider is required to keep a record of all 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):

- conduct practice fire drills on a regular basis.

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)