



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY218731
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 May 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Debra Elizabeth Jean Dahlstrom
<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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered in 2002, she lives with her husband and two older children in a residential area of Macclesfield. She is able to care for a maximum of five children at anyone time and currently has five children on roll.

Children access the lounge, kitchen, dining room and conservatory. Toilet and sleep facilities are provided on the ground and first floor. There is an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is able to take and collect children from local schools.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder gives high priority to promoting good health for young children in her care. She has excellent hygiene procedures in place to help children from an early age learn how to keep themselves fit and well. There are lots of resources used as part of everyday activities to help children. There are brightly coloured laminated posters around the home, along with books and toys to encourage good hygiene practices.

Each child has their own beaker, hairbrush and toothbrush. Children readily brush their teeth after meal times, they wash their hands with liquid soap, and dry them using attractive paper towels, all positioned at their level.

Young children thrive as they have excellent opportunities for physical play, they exercise outdoors or use the spacious environment indoors. The childminder places great importance upon children developing both large and fine motor skills. She therefore often responds to their spontaneous play. Older children run and hop, they squeal with excitement as they trail long ribbons behind them as they move from room to room. Children benefit from a range of high quality equipment to promote their balance and coordination. Children can crawl or climb, or sit quietly and thread beads, cut or roll play dough.

The childminder is committed to offering a varied and nutritious diet to promote children's healthy growth and development. Children are offered an extensive range of vegetarian homemade foods, such as butternut squash soups, roasted vegetables and couscous which children readily enjoy. The childminder also offers white meat and fish dishes as well as meat alternatives, all of which are provided according to the dietary requirements of the children. Children are interested in trying new foods, as the childminder talks about the foods as they buy them from local supermarkets. Older children are involved in preparing fresh fruit salad for after lunch.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure, bright and welcoming environment. They arrive eagerly and older children help remove outdoor clothing and their shoes. Children's sense of belonging is significantly enhanced, as they recognise the welcome poster with their photograph and those of their friends and siblings. Children's work and more photographs of them engrossed in their work are displayed, thus promoting their confidence and self-esteem.

Children relish their time in the home and with great enthusiasm, make good use of the extensive range of toys and equipment that are of the highest quality.

The childminder has first class systems in place to keep children from harm. Children learn about potential dangers and how to keep safe in ways that are meaningful to them. They have a box full of interesting toys and resources, such as fire fighters helmet, toy engines, jigsaws

and a digital versatile display unit, which provide good opportunities for children to learn about fire safety and the procedures to follow. The childminder also carries with her at all times a card with relevant details about the children she has in her care in the event of an emergency.

The childminder places great emphasis upon empowering children to help protect them from abuse and has undertaken further training through the NSPCC. She has an excellent written statement about child protection, which outlines her responsibilities and commitment to protect children. She ensures this is discussed with all parents prior to the childcare arrangement starting.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from very warm and supportive relationships with the childminder. She offers cuddles, encouragement, uses smiles and speaks to the children in gentle tones. The childminder is involved in children's activities, she spends time listening and talking to them. As a result children are happy, confident and secure in her care and their language is promoted. She often repeats the sounds babies make, giving prolonged eye contact and warm expressions, thus encouraging them in finding their voice.

The childminder actively contributes to children's care and learning as she plans for children using the Birth to three matters framework and where appropriate, uses the Foundation Stage curriculum guidance. She offers a variety of exciting and stimulating activities, experiences and spontaneous events which ensure children make rapid progress in all aspects. She provides a wealth of exciting learning opportunities which are attractively laid out and easily accessible to children. First class home made materials including games, treasure baskets and story sacks inspire and extend children's imagination and learning. Children are eager to explore the wider world as they visit local farms, plant seeds, and learn about the weather using the wind sock and windmills in the garden.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are treated with equal concern as the childminder has a very good understanding of their stages of development as she plans for their future learning needs. They feel secure and their self-esteem is promoted well. Young children clap their hands and laugh in sheer delight as their efforts and achievements are consistently recognised and celebrated by all of those present.

The childminder has a committed approach to including all children, taking into account their differing needs. Activities are adapted to ensure all children can contribute; they then feel welcomed and valued. There are positive images around the home which reflect diversity, with excellent resources in place which children readily access. Therefore, children develop a better understanding of their world around them.

The childminder is highly skilled in managing children's behaviour. Children are learning about turn-taking and sharing in a number of innovative ways. The childminder is very sensitive to

children's feelings, and with kindness and humour consistently turns potential conflicts into positive experiences for children. Children respond well to her as she helps them to learn right from wrong because they are secure and happy in her care. Young children are learning to be kind and caring as they learn to gently pat or stroke one another, this is acknowledged and praised by the childminder.

Partnership with parents is excellent, they are well-informed through newsletters and daily diaries about their children's routines and progress. Parents are extremely pleased with the service they receive from the childminder.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder is well qualified and provides excellent care for children. She is enthusiastic and highly motivated in providing children with a wide range of learning experiences. The childminder has undertaken numerous training courses, as she strives to further improve through her thorough evaluative and reflective practices. She is highly effective in making sure outcomes for children are of a high standard.

Organisation is exemplary. The childminder has a clear sense of purpose and direction, as the operational plan covers all areas of practice. She is committed to a child-centred approach, so ensuring in the planning for children, there is a good balance of child and adult-lead activities and experiences.

The childminder keeps an excellent standard of records for the children in her care. These include detailed information on the children's needs and their development. Children's significant milestones are noted as part of the daily diary, they are colour coded, in-line with the Birth to three framework. Parents therefore are kept fully informed as a photographic record is also included.

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

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

There were no recommendations made at the last inspection.

### **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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)