



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	159674
<b>Inspection date</b>	16 February 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Liz Corr
<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 2001. She lives with her husband and six year-old son, in a two bedroom maisonette in the W1 area of the London borough of Westminster. The premises border on the London borough of Camden and are close to most public transport links. Areas used for childminding are, the living room, dining area and bathroom on the first floor and bedroom on the ground floor. There is access to a small paved courtyard.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently caring for one child. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the effective practices in place to meet their physical, nutritional and health needs. For example, they regularly wash their hands throughout the day and are reminded to use soap and rinse their hands before drying them on individual paper towels. Efficient procedures are in place for cleaning food surfaces so food is hygienically prepared.

Children's health is promoted by a nutritious and balanced diet. Cooked meals, healthy snacks and regular drinks are provided throughout the day. Children enjoy feeding themselves at lunch time and ask for more helpings. Good communication with parents ensures they are informed how their child has eaten during the day.

Children are protected by the good measures taken to promote their health and well being. There is a clear sickness procedure which is shared both verbally and in writing with parents. If they become unwell during the day the childminder ensures they are comfortable and well monitored, while they wait to go home. The childminder provides individual bedding at rest time to prevent the risk of cross infection. Accidents and medication administration are recorded appropriately and the childminder has a current first aid certificate. However, permission has not been given for emergency medical advice or treatment which would ensure children are treated quickly in an emergency.

Children enjoy regular opportunities for physical activity and fresh air. Daily outings are programmed into each day to a variety of groups. They enjoy weekly sessions at a baby gym where they are involved in activities using soft play equipment. At drop-in groups they learn to steer bikes, cars and use climbing frames. Their individual routines for eating and sleeping are built into the day.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a secure environment. Their play space is welcoming and child-centred. They are able to make choices from a good selection of play equipment.

Children are protected from hazards, for example the childminder ensures that electric sockets are covered and safety gates in place. Appropriate furniture is available for children to eat safely and comfortably. Young children are learning to feed themselves and sit comfortably in high chairs. They rest according to their needs on the lower floor and are frequently monitored. However, a baby monitor is not in place which, would further promote their safety.

Children learn about what is dangerous and how to keep themselves safe. The childminder reminds them to sit safely on their chairs, and explains why it is dangerous to kick a ball indoors.

Children's safety is promoted by the appropriate fire equipment in place such as, fire blankets and smoke detectors. An emergency evacuation plan is available but has not been practised with the children, which would increase their awareness of how to keep themselves safe.

Children are kept safe on outings and are learning the importance of road safety. They are taught to cross the road at traffic lights and take turns to press the button while they wait. They are reminded that they must wait for the green light to show before they can cross the road.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted because the childminder has a good awareness of the signs and signals of abuse.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a relaxed environment and are content and settled in the childminder's care. They respond well as the childminder sits down with them to play with play dough. They are praised and encouraged as they participate in the activity. She tells one child "I like that, wow you've made a butterfly, well done." Consequently this helps build their confidence and self-esteem.

Children benefit from a good range of activities inside the home and at daily visits to a range of drop-in groups. This gives the children a varied experience and opportunities to develop social skills.

Their communication skills and understanding of mathematical language is encouraged in everyday situations. When tidying away the play dough tools, they count from one to ten repeating each number with her. They are learning about colours as they choose cutters and shapes for their dough. The childminder asks them "which colour would you like?"

The childminder makes good use of personal care routines to talk to the children and promote their learning. When changing nappies, she asks them "where is your nose, where are your eyes?" When they ask questions about what they will do that day, they receive clear explanations about their routine, she talks through what will happen during the afternoon. This helps them to feel settled and secure.

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

The provision is good.

Children are treated with respect and receive individual care because their needs and circumstances are known to the childminder. They are learning about the world they live in, in a variety of ways. A map of the world is displayed in the living room, photographs of the children are displayed to show the countries their families originate from. This helps to promote their identity and self esteem. A good selection of play equipment is available and promotes positive images of race and culture. However, there are no resources available to promote positive images of disability.

Children are well occupied and content, they relate well to the childminder. She manages their behaviour according to their understanding and stage of development. Children are learning why they are not allowed to do things that are dangerous, as the childminder gives them clear explanations. They are praised and encouraged throughout their play, consequently children

are happy and well behaved. There are good systems in place to identify and support children with learning difficulties or disabilities.

Children benefit from the effective partnership with parents. The childminder provides clear information about her service including procedures for the settling-in period and sickness. Parents are encouraged to read thank you letters and references from previous families. Informal discussions at the end of each day inform parents of their child's progress. She encourages joint working with parents, if there are concerns around meal times or behaviour. This has a positive impact on the children's overall well-being and development.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a secure understanding of the National Standards for Childminding. She demonstrates a commitment to extending her knowledge through further training and has effective support systems in place including, the local Early Years Department and the National Childminding Association. As a result, she is well informed of new developments in childminding.

The home is organised to encourage children's enjoyment and to help them feel at home. They benefit from the daily routine which ensures their individual and developmental needs are being met. Daily outings are organised to ensure they return to the childminder's home to eat and rest comfortably. Children's safety is promoted in most aspects of her service, although a baby monitor is not used at rest times to provide extra protection.

Most required documentation is in place including children's individual records. However, permission for emergency medical treatment and advice is not in place. Policies and procedures explaining many aspects of her service are available for parents to read. These are stored in a well presented file with copies of her training certificates. Daily feedback through discussion provides reassurance to parents that their child's progress is being monitored. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve her range of resources by providing equipment that promotes positive images of diversity. She has acquired a good selection of toys and resources that provide positive images of different cultures. This has improved her practice by ensuring that children are learning to value their own culture and that of other people. However, resources that promotes positive images of disability are not in place.

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- obtain written permission from parents for emergency medical advice or treatment
- improve safety at sleep time by providing equipment such as a baby monitor

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)