

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	307959
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Janet, Elizabeth Singleton

<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 satisfactory. 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 October 1992. She lives with her husband and adult daughter in Elswick close to Kirkham. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. The children do not have access to the back garden, although the childminder takes the children for walks and accesses the local park. The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding six children, all of whom attend for different sessions during the week.

The family has a dog, which is usually kept outside in the back garden.

The childminder has links with other childminders and attends toddler groups in the area.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because the childminder understands satisfactory hygiene practices. They learn about the importance of hand washing before snacks and after attending to their personal

needs in the bathroom. Arrangements for medication meet with requirements and protect children as all details are recorded. The childminder has an appropriate nappy changing procedure and, therefore, cross-contamination is limited.

Children are provided with a healthy snack of fresh fruit and are given a drink of water or sugar-free fruit juice. Their individual dietary needs are agreed with parents and they usually provide the lunch for their own child.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a clean and satisfactory environment having room to move freely and choose toys and equipment. They move freely through the home and make choices from the construction materials, books, jigsaws and role play equipment. The childminder has most required safety features in place, however, the socket cover has not been replaced and, therefore, children could access the unprotected socket. The children learn about safe practices as the childminder talks to them about being careful.

The childminder has a sound understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and understands the need to take action should an issue arise. However, she is not fully aware of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures in order to ensure any action taken is in line with these requirements.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy and achieve as they take part in a range of satisfactory activities which keep them occupied and interested. They go for walks to the park to play football and other associated ball games. They attend the local toddler groups as they mix with other children and make new friends, developing their social skills. They have a sound relationship with the childminder as they sit together enjoying a cuddle on the sofa and talking about their play. They discuss numbers and colours with the childminder and enjoy matching and sorting household items and clothing into pairs, colours and type of object.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into the setting and are encouraged to take part in all activities. They make decisions about their play and access satisfactory resources which promote their understanding of diversity. The childminder has an understanding of working with children who have learning difficulties or disabilities, and talks about the need to maintain close links with parents to ensure their individual needs are fully met.

Children are learning how to manage their behaviour because the childminder has appropriate behaviour strategies in place. She talks to the children about their behaviour and uses time out to allow children time to calm down. She sets clear expectations including no running or jumping on furniture and she assists children in managing their own behaviour by allowing them time to sort it out for themselves.

A positive relationship is fostered with parents because the childminder provides verbal information regarding her care practice. The childminder gives feedback to parents and allows

time at the end of each day to discuss their child's time with her, which contributes to the children's well-being. However, the childminder is not fully aware of the complaints procedure in order to ensure parents are also aware of the process should they have a concern.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder makes appropriate use of time, space and resources as children benefit from an environment which is organised to meet their needs and in which they are able to play freely. They make choices, accessing the appropriate toys and equipment. The childminder has an informal routine in place which is based on the children's needs, enabling them to gain from the activities provided.

Children's needs are met and their welfare protected because the childminder has most regulatory documentation in place which is appropriately maintained and up to date. Children's details are fully recorded, ensuring parents can be contacted should a situation occur.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to increase resources that reflect positive images of culture, ethnicity and disability, and to improve fire safety precautions by maintaining a smoke alarm on every level of the home and practising the emergency escape plan. The childminder has placed a smoke detector on both levels of the home to further maintain children's safety. She has practised the emergency evacuation procedure and discussed this with the children, ensuring they are fully involved and aware of the action to take. The childminder has bought some resources that reflect diversity, therefore, children can access toys which promote their understanding of the differences of people.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the 1 April 2004 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 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):

- increase awareness of the LSCB procedures
- ensure socket covers are in place at all times when minding is taking place
- raise awareness of the complaints procedure and how to investigate all complaints which relate to the National Standards.

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)