

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 128046  
**Inspection date** 21 June 2007  
**Inspector** Natasha Parsons

**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** 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 1998. She lives with her husband and two daughters. They live in a semi-detached house, which is situated in a residential street within walking distance of local parks, shops and other amenities.

The whole of the ground floor of the premises is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children over one year old and is currently minding five children under eight, some on a part time basis.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected as the childminder has effective systems to record accidents and incidents, she actively plans to avoid accidents and has a current first aid qualification with a well stocked

first aid box. Emergency treatment consent has been obtained medication forms are used and an informal unwell child policy is followed to safeguard all children's health.

The childminder cares for the children in a clean and well maintained home, children benefit from the good hygiene practices that are in place when food is prepared for example the childminder keeps her hair tied back, preparation areas are appropriately cleaned. Children's nappies are changed in a hygienic and safe manner and children's individual rest needs are met.

Children are learning about good hygiene practices when they wash their hands before eating, after using the toilet and after completing messy activities. Children are beginning to learn about healthy living when they make healthy food choices encouraged by the childminder. Children enjoy regular physical experiences when they go to local parks, use child friendly groups and go on outings. They have the opportunity to develop their physical skills when they run and jump and use climbing apparatus.

Meals and snacks are provided either by the childminder or parents, children benefit from the childminder having detailed discussions about their dietary needs and preferences. Children are well nourished as the childminder provides healthy balanced home cooked meals and snacks, she encourages children to try new foods and tastes. Children benefit from drinks being accessible, so they remain hydrated.

Mealtimes are a sociable occasion, children sit appropriately, enjoy their food, and their independence skills are fostered. A menu plan is available for parents' information, currently the childminder does not keep written records of food eaten by younger children she is committed to doing this, to enhance parents knowledge of their child's eating habits and patterns.

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

The provision is good.

Children are protected as they are cared for in a secure, safe and welcoming home. They are able to move freely in the rooms used and benefit from the child sized furniture available. They play with and use safe, suitable equipment and toys. The safety modifications in place keep children safe, for example stair gates, protected glass, safety harness in high chairs and buggies.

The childminder regularly carries out risk assessments in her home to keep children safe. She reminds children how to stay safe for example, she encourages children not to run in case they fall, not to climb and to use play scissors safely. Children are protected when on outings and in the car, the childminder takes preventative action to ensure children's safety.

Children are protected as the childminder has devised a written emergency escape plan which is practised and recorded, a lost and not collected child policy is in place. She has completed fire awareness training.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder has good child protection knowledge, and would take appropriate action if she suspected a child was at risk. She can identify the possible signs and symptoms of abuse that would concern her, and has extended her knowledge and understanding through training. A copy of the London child protection procedures is used for reference, and she is committed to developing a child protection concern sheet.

Children are protected from unvetted adults as they remain in the direct care of the childminder at all times, on outings identification tags are used with appropriate information recorded on them.

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

The provision is good.

Children do well and enjoy the time they spend in the childminder's home, the week is organised so children spend time at groups and at the childminder's. They participate and enjoy suitable outings, for example farm, large parks. A daily activity record is shared with parents, this keeps them informed of their children's day.

The childminder has a good understanding of child development, and recognises what children learn from different activities. Children play co operatively together and have formed strong relationships with each other and the childminder, they laugh and sing in her care. Children's individual care needs and requests are met for example, when snacks are requested by children and a blanket and pillow were provided so a child could rest comfortably.

The childminder knows the children well, their home routines and uses this information to meet their needs whilst in her care. Children are given opportunities to develop their independence skills when they use the toilet independently, self select activities and voice their food preferences. Children's vocabulary and understanding is being developed through meaningful discussion and when their questions are answered.

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

The provision is good.

Children are learning about the community around them when they attend local groups and spend time at local facilities. They have the opportunity to learn about different festivals. Resources support children's growing awareness of diversity and children's individuality is acknowledged and respected by the childminder. An appropriate equal opportunities policy supports the childminder's non discriminatory practices.

The childminder has some experience of working with children with learning difficulties and disabilities and recognises the importance of working with parents and outside agencies to ensure children's needs are met. Training has added to her experience and understanding.

Children behave well, this is because they are well supported by the childminder and she ensures they remain occupied , children receive lots of attention, and are praised for their good efforts. Appropriate managing behaviour techniques are used by the childminder for example, time out and distraction techniques which are used appropriately to reflect children's ages. Children are reminded of the house rules and boundaries which relate generally to ensure their safety and other children's. A management behaviour policy reflects the childminder practises this, is shared with parents, who are kept informed of their children's behaviour.

Good working relationships between the childminder and parents ensures the regular exchange of information, parents' wishes and requests are met. The childminder is supportive, she values parents' input as she recognises they are the most knowledgeable about their children. Children benefit from a well thought out settling procedure , when time is made for detailed discussion about their needs. Children are settled according to their settling needs, this helps placements to be successful and the experience positive.

Parental policies and procedures ensure parents remain informed, a complaints procedure is in place, the childminder is committed to develop this to ensure it reflects current legislation. She periodically reviews the policies and procedures to reflect her practice accurately.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit as the childminder is flexible, committed and experienced, she is member of a childminding network and she reviews her service to ensure the needs of children and their families are well met. She has participated in relevant childcare training and is committed to complete more.

Children are cared for in a clean, organised home play materials and activities are organised to ensure they are accessible. The week is planned so children have lots of opportunities to attend and enjoy groups, their social skills are developed when they mix with other children and adults.

Required children's records and parental consent forms are in place, these protect children and keep parents informed about the childminder's practices. Written policies and procedures reflect accurately the childminder's service and are appropriately reviewed.

The childminder values and respects parents' wishes and requests, she has good well established parental working relationships, children are comfortable in her care and make themselves at home.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to keep a written record of medicines given to children and obtain parental consent, a medicine consent form is now appropriately completed. Hazards in the kitchen were to be inaccessible to children. A stair gate is used to make the kitchen inaccessible, the kitchen has been risk assessed and made safe. A copy of the London child protection procedure needed to be obtained, this is now available.

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted. 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):

- Enhance current records kept on younger children to include a record of the food daily provided and eaten,
- develop the parental complaints procedure to ensure it reflects current legislation.

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)