

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY258131
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 July 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Christine Lynne Hodge

<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 2003. She lives with her husband, who is also a registered childminder, and their four children aged 15, 12, 10 and five years in Plumstead, in South East London. The childminder is shortly expecting her fifth child. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play and a designated play room.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time when working alone. When working with her husband, they may care for a total of eight children. The childminder is currently minding three children under five years, all of whom attend part-time and two school age children under eight years. An assistant is employed for after school care

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in clean, well maintained surroundings where their health is suitably promoted through effective cleaning routines. For example, anti-bacterial cleaning products

are used daily on floors and work surfaces and furniture throws and plastic table cloths are used to support easy cleaning. Children learn good personal hygiene routines by being encouraged to wash their hands after going to the toilet and before meal times. Appropriate nappy changing procedures help to protect children from cross-infection. Children have good opportunities to exercise and play outside in the fresh air in the well equipped garden or on outings to local parks and playgroups.

Children are well protected in the event of accidents as the childminder has two first aid boxes and holds a current first aid qualification. She also has obtained parent's written consent for seeking emergency medical advice/ treatment. However, the procedure for recording accidents is insufficient as the childminder currently notifies parents in writing about any accidents, but does not use her accident book to keep a written record.

Children are provided with healthy snacks and meals. At snack time they enjoy fresh fruit for example, water melon and grapes and regular drinks of water or fruit juice are offered throughout the day. Children's likes, dislikes, allergies and special dietary requirements are discussed with parents and taken into account.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children can play and relax in a warm, secure environment. They can move around confidently and freely in well organised play space where necessary safety precautions such as stair gates and socket covers are in place to protect them from harm. The main fish pond in the garden is covered with a secure frame. A second pond which has been emptied, but now contains rain water has been blocked off with a table to prevent children's access until it can be made completely safe. An annual maintenance check is carried out to ensure that the garden and toys are well maintained and safe for children. Furniture, equipment and play resources are in good condition and meet children's needs. Toys are checked regularly for cleanliness and safety. Children are provided with appropriate seats and restraints when travelling in the car.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of child protection issues and of her role and responsibility for recording and reporting concerns. However, her documentation regarding local procedures is out-of-date as it is not in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a suitable selection of play resources which are kept in the dedicated play room and which meet their needs. For example, there are table games, electronic toys, construction, puzzles, creative materials, books, dolls and an assortment of baby toys. Children also take part in a variety of activities which include drawing, colouring, painting, collage, play dough and baking cakes as well as physical play in the large outdoor play space. They benefit from outings to the local parks and playgroups.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. At the inspection they enjoy a relaxing afternoon watching cartoons whilst drawing pictures following a busy morning at pre-school. The childminder interacts well with the children getting them to tell her about the different coloured pens they are drawing with and colours of various fruits such as water melon and

grapes which they take great pleasure in eating. Later, children begin a creative activity before playing independently together in the lounge.

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

The provision is good.

Children from all ethnic backgrounds and religions are welcomed into the childminder's home. Children are treated as individuals and with respect. The childminder talks to parents about family backgrounds, routines, children's likes, dislikes and gets to know the children well. Children are learning about diversity and disability through pictures, books and artefacts displayed around the childminder's home, different foods provided at meal times, positive play resources and watching television programmes and videos. The childminder has a positive attitude to inclusion.

Strategies for managing children's behaviour are focused on positive reinforcement. The childminder talks to children in a calm and caring way and gives lots of praise and encouragement to promote their self-esteem. As a result children are happy, confident and well behaved.

Flexibility and good communication ensures effective working relationships with parents and contributes to children's care and wellbeing. The childminder passes on information about activities and meals so that parents can share in their children's day and achievements. Contracts, child record forms and consent forms are completed.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The provider meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children benefit from being cared for by a childminder who is keen to attend training in order to keep her childcare practice and knowledge updated. The childminder and her co- childminder work well together to ensure children receive suitable levels of care and supervision. Play space and resources are well organised so children can play safely and make choices about their play.

All necessary documentation for the effective and safe management of the provision is available for use and most is completed to a satisfactory standard. These include an attendance register which shows children's times of arrival and departure, contracts, child record forms and consent forms. However, the childminder's procedure for recording accidents is insufficient. Although she provides parents with a written note informing them of any accidents to their child she does not keep a written record in her accident book.

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

At her previous inspection the childminder was asked to develop her knowledge and understanding of the Birth to three matters framework to support work with children under three years. She has attended a training course run by the local authority on the framework. As the knowledge gained has not been put into practice there is minimal impact on the improvement in the outcomes for children.

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

Since the last inspection Ofsted has received one complaint regarding National Standard 1 - Suitable Person, National Standard 2 - Organisation and National Standard 8 - Food and Drink.

This complaint related to issues regarding: the storage of food; that persons left in sole care of children were not suitable to do so; that the childminder was caring for more children than their registration allows; and issues related to suitability.

Ofsted carried out an unannounced visit and found evidence to suggest that the provider was in breach of the National Standards. Ofsted took action to suspend the provider to enable the provider to take appropriate steps to improve.

The childminder took appropriate action to meet the National Standards and suspension was lifted. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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):

- keep a written record of all accident including any existing injuries that children arrive with from home
- ensure that all water features in the garden are made safe and are inaccessible to children
- ensure that child protection procedures are in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures(LSCB)

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)