

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY259199
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 September 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Amanda Gill
<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 lives with her adult daughter and younger son and daughter aged 15 and 11 years. They live in a house in a residential area of Dagenham close to the Heathway shopping area and Goresbrook Leisure Centre. The ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family have a pet Bichon Frise dog and a lovebird.

The childminder is member of the National Child Minding Association (NCMA).

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to develop an understanding of good hygiene routines and they wash their hands before meal times, after visiting the toilet and prior to engaging in cooking activities. Children are protected from the risk of cross infection because they each have their own individual flannel and towel and they are encouraged to wash their hands with anti bacterial

hand soap. The childminder ensures that she sets the children a good example and they see her washing her hands prior to preparing food and after making nappy changes. Children's welfare is further supported as the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a fully stocked first aid kit.

The childminder ensures surfaces are clean by wiping down tables before children eat and after messy play with anti bacterial spray. Clear systems ensure that children's medical needs, the administration of medication and first aid are appropriately recorded and countersigned by parents, supporting continuity of care.

All children benefit from a healthy diet which is provided by the childminder. Drinks are made available throughout the day, children have their own individual beakers and they are encouraged to help themselves to these, when possible, increasing their independence. The childminder ensures that she is aware of any allergies and other special dietary requirements so that children's individual needs are met.

All children have access to physical play through the range of resources the childminder provides, such as climbing cubes, skittles, bats and balls, and music and movement. They also make regular visits to the nearby parks which promotes their physical well-being. They are able to be active, according to their needs, in the home.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, well maintained environment with adequate space for children to play and explore freely. A range of equipment such as safety gates, buggies, and fire blankets are available to meet the care needs of the children attending.

Children are made safe around the home, as possible hazards have been minimised as the childminder carries out a visual risk assessment of her home on a daily basis. Effective fire safety precautions are implemented. This includes having maintained smoke alarms on both levels of the home, an accessible fire blanket in the kitchen and the development of a clear fire evacuation procedure. However, the fire evacuation procedure has not been practised with the children to ensure it's effective in keeping them safe.

The children are protected through the childminder's knowledge of child protection. She is aware of the different types of abuse, possible signs and symptoms and how to record and report concerns, but needs to revise the written information given to parents so that they are aware of the procedures that the childminder needs to follow in the event of an allegation of abuse or neglect.

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

The provision is good.

Children develop close and caring relationships with the childminder. They receive lots of attention and benefit from interaction from the childminder while they play. Younger children are starting to explore their surroundings and are able to choose toys independently from low level toy boxes set out.

Children make good progress when they attend the childminder's house. Activities provided are suitable for their ages and stages of development and cover all areas of learning. They

particularly enjoy playing with play dough and exploring the selection of natural products, in treasure baskets. The childminder introduces learning into the daily routine as children are encouraged to count the magnets and talk about the colours they can see. Children's vocabulary is developed as the childminder asks questions and extends conversation.

Children have opportunities to enjoy purposeful and exciting outings, such as the local parks and other local places of interest.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure that children's needs are met. She offers daily verbal and written feedback and ensures that they keep her informed of relevant information from their home. However, the childminder is not aware of the requirement for keeping a written complaints procedure and maintaining a system to record/log complaints for future reference.

Children gain an awareness of people from other cultures and with differing needs as the childminder provides suitable resources. However, they do not discuss festivals of a range of religions or take part in activities which help them to learn about different cultures. They are able to communicate their own needs and beliefs in a supportive environment.

Children's behaviour is very good and they co-operate well with one another supported by the childminder. The childminder uses effective techniques to ensure that unwanted behaviour is kept to a minimum. Children are learning right from wrong as the childminder teaches them to share and take turns. Negative behaviour is distracted with other activities and age appropriate strategies are used to ensure children understand their behaviour. Children are developing independence with their daily routines and they make choices about what they wish to play with. Children are developing self-confidence as the childminder praises their efforts and achievements.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare and care needs are well met as the childminder has an appropriate understanding of the needs of the children in her care.

The childminder's procedures are shared with parents to keep them informed about their child. However, the childminder is not aware of the procedure for keeping a record of complaints from parents in line with new regulations to the National Standards. There have been no concerns to date and this has had minimal impact on the care of the minded children.

Children are keen, eager to attend and enjoy their time in this setting. They feel at home and at ease with the childminder and her family which means their confidence grows as they initiate their play and learning. Space, play resources and activities are organised effectively to meet children's individual needs. This contributes to the continuity in the children's care. The childminder has the legally required records in place to support the well-being of the children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, two recommendations were made. Firstly to ensure that children have daily access to an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder has made progress in this area by purchasing a number of small world toys, dolls, puzzles which depict equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. There is a strong commitment from the childminder to allow equal access to all activities and opportunities. The childminder has started to develop the range of toys and resources made available for the children, however, activities promoting other cultures and religions needs to be extended.

The second recommendation was to ensure that local Child Protection referral procedures and contact numbers are readily available. The childminder has since made contact with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and has all the contact details readily available on her premises at all times.

## **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 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):

- consider practising the fire evacuation procedure with children to ensure it is effective
- ensure that all children have opportunities to experience and learn different faiths & cultures
- ensure notification is made to Ofsted of any changes, in line with the National Standards
- update the information for parents regarding child protection procedures

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)