

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	504318
<b>Inspection date</b>	16 August 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 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 a registered childminder since 1998. She lives with her husband and three children aged 11, 15 and 17 years of age in an end of terraced house in Rainham, in the London Borough of Havering. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children in her home at any one time. She is currently minding seven children under eight part-time. Her home is within walking distance of local shops in the town centre, the library and primary schools.

Children have access to the whole of the ground floor, with toilet and sleeping facilities provided in this area. There is also a small garden for outdoor play.

The family have two cats. The childminder is a member of the National Child Minders Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of personal hygiene through reinforced daily routines. They know, for example, that by washing hands after using the toilet, sprinkling glitter or stroking the cats, they will be both clean and healthy. The childminder ensures she sets them a good example and they see her washing her hands before preparing food and after helping children with craft activities. Effective nappy changing practices mean that the potential for cross infection is minimised. Children's welfare is well promoted because the daily routine is based around their care needs, for example, to ensure that young children are able to have an afternoon nap.

Children's medical needs are effectively met. The childminder has devised policies and procedures for the administration of medicine, for medical emergencies and dealing with unwell children. These are discussed with parents before minding takes place and because the childminder has developed a clear procedure to follow in the event that a child needs hospital treatment, their health is well promoted. The childminder has knowledge of first aid and appropriate systems are in place to record accidents and medication.

All children have access to physical play through the wide range of resources the childminder provides, mainly outside. Children have frequent opportunities to dance and sing and enjoy moving to music. They also make regular visits to the local parks and fun houses. They are all able to be active, according to their needs, within the home.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They help themselves to their own juice cups and beakers throughout the day. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and the children's choices to provide nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to the children and meet their dietary needs.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder is aware of ensuring children's safety and ensures that her home is free from potential hazards before children arrive each day. The childminder has created a very warm and welcoming home. The play area is adorned with children's work which helps them to feel valued in the environment. The home is well maintained and appropriately decorated and this helps the children to feel comfortable and settled. The whole of the ground floor is used for minding and children are able to move around freely and independently to select activities from a wide range of toys and resources. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and suitable for their age and stage of development.

Children learn about road safety and emergency evacuation procedures as part of their daily activities. regular fire drills help children to become familiar with the procedures so they learn how to leave the premises quickly and safely. Children discuss the importance of ensuring all doors are locked in the event of a fire and exiting the premises quickly.

The children are well protected through the childminders knowledge of child protection issues and procedures. These are discussed with parents prior to minding to ensure that they are kept well informed. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and have formed very good relationships with the childminder and her family. Children are confident speakers and they initiate discussions with adults, such as 'we are going to see Noddy'. Children's vocabulary and language develop well through continuous interaction; the childminder uses open ended questions when discussing story books with children and takes an interest in what they have to say.

Children make good progress when they attend the childminder's home. Activities provided are suitable for their ages and stages of development. The children particularly enjoy creating masks, t-shirts and trinket boxes from glitter, glue, pens, pencils and transfer pens. All children enjoy purposeful and exciting outings such as local parks and play fun houses.

Children respond enthusiastically to the activities provided such as Magnatex, jigsaws, craft, ball games and physical activities. There are daily opportunities for children to use scissors, glue, tape and a range of craft materials. There is a good balance of free play and adult directed activities on offer. Children's artwork is displayed in the play area and they eagerly show adults their work. This gives children a sense of achievement and belonging.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

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 at the appropriate times in the year or take part in activities which help them to learn about different cultures.

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 developing independence within their daily routines and they make choices about what they play. Children are very polite and show consideration for others, for example, without prompting children say 'pardon', 'please' and 'thank you'. The childminder offers lots of praise and encouragement.

No children attending have learning difficulties or disabilities. The childminder has limited experience of working with children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities but is aware of the need to work closely with parents for consistency.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure continuity of care. Daily communication and the use of an activity book ensures information is effectively shared. She has devised clear and effective policies and procedures for the safe management of the provision. These are shared with parents and practices are reflective of these. This includes a written complaints procedure which informs parents of how to raise a complaint and a folder to log any complaints confidentially.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, well organised and child friendly environment. The organisation of the day allows children to participate in both planned and free play activities.

The childminder ensures children are supervised well throughout the day and ensures only suitable people have contact with them, this contributes to keeping them safe. The children feel at home and at ease in the well-organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning.

Required documentation is in place and is stored appropriately and with confidentiality in mind. The childminder effectively uses the policies and procedures to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. She shares them regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to the continuity of the children's care. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At her last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that the cat food was not accessible to minded children. The childminder has moved home since her last inspection and the cats food is placed in the utility area. The food is only given to the cats before the minded children arrive and again when they leave the premises. This ensures that children's health and well-being is met.

The childminder also agreed to ensure that the premises and garden are safe and secure. The childminder has moved to a safe premises in the London Borough of Havering. The new home contains a large, secure garden area. The garden gates are bolted in three places ensuring complete security. The home is secure with locks on both the front and back doors. The childminder also uses stair gates to ensure children are safe from the kitchen and to ensure children do not go up the stairs. The childminder, therefore, reinforces safe practices within the home, ensuring it is effective in keeping them safe.

### **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):

- ensure that all children have opportunities to experience and learn different faiths and cultures

- continue to develop an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice

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)