

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	137061
<b>Inspection date</b>	03 September 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Susan Linda Capon
<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 was registered in 1999. She lives with her husband and 3 children ages three, seven and nine years old, in a house situated in the London Borough of Bromley. With the exception of the main bedroom on the second floor all areas of the home are available for childminding. There is a secure garden available for outdoor play.

The family has no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight years at any one time. She is currently caring for five children on a part-time basis. She also cares for children over eight years old on a part-time basis.

The childminder has a B-Tec qualification in childcare. She makes regular use of the local amenities including local parks, library and parent and toddler groups.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children spend their day in a very clean environment. The childminder implements her sound health and safety policy and procedures to minimise the risk of cross-contamination and infection throughout her home. She disinfects her floor using an anti- bacterial cleaner and thoroughly cleans all work surfaces before and after use. The childminder uses different coloured cloths for cleaning and cleans all baby equipment between use. She uses good nappy changing routines with each child having their own changing mat to prevent infection.

All the children are learning about keeping themselves healthy as they use good hygiene routines throughout the day. Younger children are developing their awareness of good hand-washing before meals and after playing in the garden or touching the animals at the farm. Older children know they do this to "prevent them getting germs". The childminder washes the separate bedding frequently. Children are encouraged to use the available tissues to blow their nose, disposing of them in the covered bin. These routines help to prevent the spread of infection.

The childminder carefully follows safe food handling routines when she stores, prepares, cooks and serves the children's food.

Sound medication routines protect the children. All medication is stored out of children's reach while being available if required. For example, an asthma pump. Parents see the records of any medication administered.

Children receive suitable treatment when they have an accident. The childminder has a suitable first aid kit readily available which she regularly replenishes. She has a first aid qualification and written parental consent to seek emergency treatment for any child in her care. The childminder records all accidents, sharing the record with the parents.

Parents do not bring a sick child to the setting, helping to prevent the spread of infection. The childminder ensures parents are fully aware of her sickness policy and procedures. She has suitable arrangements for contacting them if their child becomes unwell while at the setting. An early collection helps to prevent infection spreading.

All the children enjoy regular exercise and fresh air. They play in the garden and visit local parks and play centres. Younger children enjoy pushing the toys around the garden and playing on the slide. Older children enjoy exploring the large play apparatus in the parks, practising their climbing, jumping and sliding skills. They are aware these activities help to keep them healthy.

Children choose when they want to have a drink as a water jug and beakers are readily available for their use. Younger children have their own beaker readily available to them throughout the day.

All the children enjoy healthy, nutritious snacks and meals. The childminder uses some organic foods and limits the fat, sugar, salt, colourings and additive content whenever possible. She particularly ensures the children have organic milk to drink. The childminder considers all individual dietary needs when planning her meals, ensuring children eat food in agreement with their parent's wishes. For example one child drinks goat's milk.

Children are developing their awareness of the foods they like or dislike. All the children enjoyed the melon slices for snacks and enjoy the baked chicken legs they often have for an evening meal. Younger children are encouraged to eat fresh fruit and vegetables with a sticker as reward. The children's favourite meal of fish fingers, chips and beans is provided as a special treat. The childminder limits the use of processed foods to provide children with a healthy diet.

Some children enjoy the food and drink provided by their parents. The childminder gives help and advice to parents, regarding a healthy diet and suitable amounts for young children and babies on a daily basis. This helps parents feel confident their child is thriving and growing appropriately.

The childminder does not use cracked or broken crockery to prevent the spread of infection and cross-contamination. She ensures the children follow good hygiene routines when participating in cooking activities.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children spend their day in a very warm, welcoming and child-orientated home. It is light, bright and in good decorative order throughout, making it a pleasant place for children to play.

The childminder organises her home and garden well, providing suitable areas for children to play, enjoy 'messy' activities, sleep, rest, 'chill out' and outdoor activities. Younger children use the upstairs area under the childminder's direct supervision. Older children use the children's bedrooms on specific invitation.

Children access an extensive range of toys, equipment and activities throughout the home and garden. The childminder rotates the equipment regularly, providing children with a stimulating and interesting environment. All the toys are well-organised with many stored in baskets or boxes. A good range is readily accessible to all the children, covering all areas of development from nought to eight years old. Additional suitable equipment is readily available for older children. All the toys and equipment are clean and in good order.

Children under two years old use appropriate equipment to meet their developmental needs. For example, a booster chair for eating and playing at the table and a buggy for walks. Everything is clean, suitable and safe for the children to use.

All the household furnishings are clean, suitable and safe for the children. The childminder checks any play equipment at the local parks or play centres is suitable and safe for the children to use.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the importance of keeping the children safe and secure at all times. She has identified all the potential hazards in her home and garden, taking suitable steps to minimise these to prevent accidents. For example, stair gates to both floors prevent young children accessing the stairs and all cleaning fluids are inaccessible to the children. The outdoor play area is fully secure and the children are unable to access the garden shed. Rubber chippings under the garden play equipment help to prevent children hurting themselves if they have a fall.

Younger children are developing an understanding of the importance of keeping themselves safe. The childminder reminds them of the dangers of standing on the top of the slide and they know they must hold the buggy when walking close to busy traffic. Older children use the

Green Cross Code to cross busy roads under the childminders supervision. They know they must keep the childminder in sight when playing in the local parks.

The children benefit from the childminder's sound knowledge and understanding of how to manage child protection issues. She has recently completed a course updating her knowledge in this area. The childminder has a useful NSPCC booklet for older children, discussing the importance of keeping themselves safe. She knows how to protect herself and her family from allegation of abuse. The childminder keeps the local procedures readily available for use if she is concerned about a child. Parents are aware of her policy and procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children are confident in the setting. They have all developed excellent relationships with the childminder and other family members, making them feel at home and part of the family. All the children enjoy attending and have made friends with the other minded children. Some children have attended the setting for a long-time and say they really feel at home.

Young children are developing their confidence and independence skills as they select their own activities and feed themselves at mealtimes. They confidently ask the childminder for help when they need to. For example, putting on the apron for water play or undressing to use the hot tub.

The children enjoy regular opportunities to extend and develop their imagination as they play together and alone. They enjoy making their own models from the play dough and creating their own puppets. One child modelled Scooby Doo. Older children extend the activity by making up their own plays. Young children happily make the childminder butterfly cakes and cups of tea, using the sand.

Young children are developing good language skills as they make themselves understood. For example, they ask for their snack particularly requesting a piece of orange and a biscuit. The childminder sits with the children chatting with them as they play. The children enjoy their regular visits to the local library for story time. They enjoy selecting their own books for use in the setting.

The childminder supports the children's mathematical development as she discusses how heavy the buckets are when they are filled with sand. She helps children weigh the ingredients for cake making and discusses big and small when children fill the beakers with water or sand.

Children enjoy regular opportunities to develop their social skills as they meet children of a similar age and stage of development through activities outside the home. Younger children particularly enjoy attending the local parent and toddler group and visiting other childminders. Older children enjoy the trips to local parks and play centres, using the range of equipment relevant to their individual needs. Younger children play alongside on the smaller equipment.

Younger children enjoy exploring the natural resources readily available in the garden. They carefully pour the water between one beaker and another taking care not to spill any. The children laugh happily as they watch and chase the bubbles from the bubble machine. More curious children are eager to learn how the bubbles are made and take a turn themselves. Younger children happily play with the bubbles in the water tray.

All the children enjoy using the hot tub in the garden. The parents have given written consent for their child to participate and some of the younger children really enjoy this activity. They laugh and smile as the childminder holds them for short periods in the bubbles, letting the childminder know when they have had enough and would like to get out.

Younger children enjoy using the outdoor equipment. They are learning to share the toys and co-operate with one another as they play. The children enjoy using the rocker together.

Older children particularly enjoy art and craft activities, dressing- up and making up their own musicals. They hold singing competitions using the karaoke and enjoy playing the X factor game together.

Younger children's favourite activities include 'messy' play and art and crafts, including painting and gluing.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder implements her equal opportunities policy and procedures in her setting. All families and children are welcome. The children learn to respect everyone and to learn about other cultures and religions. They enjoy activities linked to Diwali and the Chinese New Year. Children are encouraged to share their language with the other children. For example, all the children learned to speak a few Chinese words when a Chinese child attended. This helped to build his self-esteem and confidence. Children enjoy playing with the wide range of readily available resources depicting positive images for all areas of equal opportunities. For example, the play figures for younger children and books for all the children.

Children settle quickly through the childminder's sound procedures. Parents are encouraged to visit for a short time with their child to help them both develop a relationship with the childminder and build their confidence in the setting. These procedures enable parents to return to work safe in the knowledge that their child is happy and receiving good care.

The childminder discusses each child's individual needs, recording the relevant information prior to the child attending. She incorporates younger children's routines into the setting, providing continuity of care.

Children benefit from the childminder's previous experience of caring for children with disabilities. She has sound procedures for identifying any child not developing appropriately. The childminder will always discuss her concerns with the parents, advising them to seek appropriate help and advice. She will continue to support the child and their family wherever possible, providing continuity of care.

All the children behave very well. Older children know the house rules and boundaries. Younger children are developing their understanding of the rules although they realise they must share and take turns when using the equipment. The calm, consistent approach used by the childminder ensures the harmonious environment is enjoyed by everyone.

The childminder discusses any particular behavioural problems with the parents, agreeing suitable strategies to help overcome these. For example, a young child liked to pull peoples hair. Within a short time of attending the setting they now understand this is not acceptable behaviour.

The childminder develops excellent relationships with the parents. Previous parents say how pleased they have been with their child's care and the pleasant family atmosphere. The detailed contracts identify the specific care required for each child. The childminder implements this information in her setting, providing appropriate care for each child. She regularly reviews all her contracts, ensuring all information is correct and up to date.

Parents benefit from the childminders portfolio of information about her setting. They see all her policies and procedures, ensuring they understand how she manages her business. The childminder is aware of who may collect a child and will not release any child to an unknown person, keeping them safe and secure at all times.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Suitable people care for the children. The childminder never leaves them alone with un-vetted people, keeping them safe and secure at all times.

The childminder carefully maintains her registration conditions for children under eight years old. She ensures any additional children over eight years old do not have an impact on the care of the under eights. All the children receive the appropriate care for their individual needs.

The children benefit from the childminder's professional approach to her work. She continues to attend additional training opportunities to develop and extend her childcare practice. Since the last inspection she has attended health and safety, first aid and child protection courses. She intends to develop her knowledge of caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The childminder maintains a daily register for all the children attending, including their individual arrival and departure times. This shows exactly who is on site at any time, protecting the children in an emergency.

The childminder regularly evaluates her provision under the National Standards. She considers each area carefully, identifying room for improvement where possible. For example, she intends to provide children with reflective outdoor clothing for use in the dark winter months. This will help to keep the children more safe and secure.

The childminder has an organised portfolio of very well-written policies and procedures, identifying how she promotes the welfare, care and learning of the children. Additional information, including her updated criminal record bureau check demonstrates how she operates her business and meets the National Standards. She stores her information securely and maintains confidentiality.

The childminder is fully aware of any changes to the National Standards and displays her certificate in the hallway. She has all her documentation readily available for inspection and ensures a copy of the last inspection report is available to the parents. Parents know how to complain although the current policy does not include information for contacting Ofsted if required

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

Since the last inspection the childminder has improved her childcare setting as required. She now ensures she keeps Ofsted fully informed of any changes to the household and maintains a signed record of all medication administered to the children. This keeps the children safe and secure at all times.

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

Since 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 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 the complaints policy and procedure includes contact details for Ofsted

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)