

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	402728
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 July 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Jill Steer
<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 1990. She lives with her two sons aged eight years and 16 years in Forest Hill. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding purposes and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five, all of whom attend on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group. The family have some fish. The childminder is a member of a local childminder support group.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy eating their packed lunch as supplied by their parents and carefully stored by the childminder. They sit at the table to eat sociably together so they can happily chat at the

same time. Children are frequently reminded to drink and their cups are readily available for them to access whenever they are thirsty.

From an early age, children learn about personal hygiene. The childminder reminds them to wash their hands after using the toilet, each using their own hand towel which reduces the spread of infection. The childminder discourages parents from leaving their children if they are unwell, unless they have a common cold. This not only helps prevent the spread of any infections amongst the children but reduces the chance of the childminder becoming unwell and unable to care for any of the children.

A range of activities are organised which enable children to develop a healthy lifestyle. For example, most days include an outing in the fresh air so children benefit from exercise, such as at the local park; where they run around and use the apparatus to develop their muscle control and co-ordination. The childminder recognises that some children have lots of energy and organises each day to include time and space for active play, particularly involving popular ball games.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their many outings as the childminder keeps them within her sight at all times; she explains the importance of all staying together when out. Children hold on to the buggy or stand on a buggy board as they walk along together, discussing how to cross roads safely. Parental consent has been obtained for the childminder to take children out in her car and good procedures have been developed for getting children safely in and out of the car. For example, the childminder always uses the pavement side of the car to strap the babies in first, followed by the walking children.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of the various types of child abuse and child protection issues. She has good systems in place to ensure any concerns about the welfare of the children in her care are recorded. She knows the procedure to follow to report her concerns in order to safeguard the children. Most hazards have been identified and addressed in the childminder's home, in order to keep children safe. However, the fire blanket has not been fitted in the kitchen preventing a fire from being managed quickly.

Children like to play in the bright and comfortable environment created by the childminder, where they are able to relax and feel at home. They move around freely and develop their confidence by independently choosing what to play with from the good quality resources stored at low level. The resources are well maintained to ensure children continue to play safely; they are encouraged to put things away when they have finished their game, ready for next time.

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

The provision is good.

Children develop their language and conversational skills as they engage in lively dialogues with the childminder. They constantly chat as they go about their chosen activities with the childminder. For example, they choose to bake cakes with a pack of farm animal cake mix, discussing the procedure as followed many times before, such as cracking the egg in and whisking the mixture. They enjoy books and rhymes together, which the children are clearly familiar with. They sit comfortably together as the children sing along with the childminder holding finger puppets for Humpty Dumpty and Twinkle Twinkle.

Children are confident and relaxed as they happily play, while the childminder is close by to provide support and encouragement. They have warm relationships with her and benefit from her participation in their activities. The childminder is attentive, guiding and supporting children's play, which extends their interest and builds their confidence in expressing their own ideas. Children have fun with the childminder as they are encouraged to ask questions and think, learning through the challenges and experiences provided.

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

The provision is good.

Clear and consistent boundaries are set by the childminder which help children learn about acceptable behaviour. Gentle suggestions encourage children to co-operate, maintaining a relaxed and harmonious environment. As the childminder takes an active interest in the children and what they are doing, they become confident and self-assured. Speaking to the children respectfully helps them to feel valued and develops their self-esteem. Children are well supported, their individual needs are taken into consideration when the daily activities are planned, ensuring everyone is able to participate at their individual level of ability.

Several resources are available for children to begin to learn about some of the different types of people who live in the world today and outings help them learn about the local community. Some 'special days' are celebrated with the childminder such as St Patrick's Day and Mother's Day. A wider understanding is gained by the children of diversity only through attendance at local groups where they learn about cultural festivals such as Diwali and enjoy play with a wider selection of resources.

Children develop a friendly and trusting relationship with the childminder as they observe her relaxed partnership with their parents. A daily exchange of information ensures children's care needs are discussed and incorporated into the daily routines; maintaining a continuity of care which provides reassurance and stability for children. The childminder gives careful consideration to the impact on all children before she agrees to look after children who have additional needs, whilst ensuring she fully understands how to care for them.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care is well organised. All the relevant information is obtained by the childminder to ensure their individual needs and care routines are fully met. Children are welcomed into the childminder's home, which is a bright and comfortable environment with sufficient space for children to play together. They can access the resources independently as the childminder stores them at low level so children make their own choices.

The required documentation and records are in place to comply with regulations; these are regularly reviewed to ensure they contain the latest information, to ensure the safety and well-being of the children. However, children's attendance is recorded weekly so does not accurately reflect that they are in the childminder's care each day. Children are closely supervised at all times to help keep them safe and protected from persons who may not have been vetted, both at home and when they are out. The childminder is experienced in caring for young children. She keeps her knowledge up to date through attending suitable training courses. Most recently she completed a child protection course to safeguard the wellbeing of the children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

Since the last inspection the childminder has improved her knowledge of child protection issues through attending a suitable course. She has not however, fully improved the fire safety precautions.

### **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 hazards are identified and reduced effectively in the home
- ensure all documentation relating to childminding is well maintained

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)