

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	107359
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Sarah Morfett

<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 1989. She lives with her husband and one grown up child in Peckham, in the London borough of Southwark. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding 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 five children part time. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

The childminder is a member of an approved childminding network.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a hygienic environment because the childminder follows good cleaning routines. Each morning before they arrive she cleans the floors and all toys are wiped over with antiseptic wipes on a regular basis. Children have their own flannel, towel and toothbrush kept

at the childminders, which they use after meals. Therefore they learn good personal hygiene routines. The childminder reminds them to put their hand over their mouth when they cough; explaining it stops the spread of germs. An effective sickness policy with details of suitable exclusion periods ensures that parents' know they must keep their children at home when they are unwell. Therefore, children are protected from the risk of cross infection.

There are suitable systems in place to record accidents and medication. The childminder has a current first aid certificate therefore knows how to act in an emergency situation. She has obtained written permission from the parents for the procedures which require them for instance, to seek emergency medical advice and treatment, permission for outings and to travel on public transport. Consequently, children's health and well-being are thoroughly protected.

Children have good opportunities to be active. They are out with the childminder most mornings attending local toddler groups or childminder drop in centres. They can use a varied range of equipment such as; climbing frames and wheeled toys. When the weather is good the children can use the well equipped garden and the childminder frequently takes them to the park. Therefore, children benefit from regular exercise. Children are offered a healthy balanced diet. The childminder cooks a good range of meals over the week which includes fresh vegetables and fruit. Children have access to fresh drinking water at all times and the childminder reminds them to drink frequently therefore they are kept suitably hydrated.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in child centred environment. The basement of the home has been turned into a playroom with ample space for them to move about. It is made warm and welcoming because toys and resources are displayed invitingly and children's pictures decorate the walls. Toys are stored in such a way that the children can easily help themselves to what they want to play with. Furniture and equipment is well maintained as the childminder ensures she checks and cleans it regularly so it is hygienic for the children to play with. Good steps are taken each day to minimise hazards. For example, the childminder checks sockets are covered and gates are secure before the children arrive. There is a suitable procedure for evacuation in an emergency and this is practised regularly with the older children. The very young children take part also; therefore they become familiar with the routines. Secure procedures are in place to protect the children when they are out for example, the childminder ensures young children are strapped safely into buggies and toddlers wear wrist straps. Rules are reinforced for instance, staying in sight in the park and not talking to strangers. Therefore, children learn how to keep themselves safe.

The childminder has a good understanding of local child protection procedures. She is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and has a good knowledge of the procedures to follow should she have a concern about the children in her care. She keeps a good range of paperwork to refer to should she need to. Parents are informed verbally of her duty of care. Therefore, all children are safeguarded.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled at the childminders. They thrive within familiar routines as they are given time to play, rest or sleep and socialise with others their own age. They benefit from a child centred play space and confidently help themselves to a good range of resources which

are stored at their level, bright, inviting and easy to access. The resources are age appropriate; for instance there are activity centres, building bricks, dolls house, dressing up, books, puzzles, games, role play and musical instruments which help the children to develop through play and offer them balance and challenge.

The children benefit from good interaction with the childminder. As they play she asks them questions about what they are doing and responds well to the very young children's babbling promoting early communication. She understands that children learn best through play and their own first hand experiences. For example, she provides a painting activity which all the children enjoy; the younger ones explore the textures and experiment with the paint on the paper. The older children are using a variety of colours and as they paint she talks to them about what happens when they mix them together; extending the activity for the more able children. Therefore, they make good progress in her care.

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

The provision is good.

Children gain a wide view of the world around them. They have a good range of resources to play with including play people, dolls, books, puzzles and musical instruments. They take part in festivals and celebrations from other cultures when they attend groups within the local community. For example, they made pictures for the year of the rat for Chinese New Year recently. The childminder has a very positive attitude to including children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Through discussion with the childminder, children begin to understand other people's differences. The childminder records relevant information for each child, for instance, their medical and dietary requirements and their likes and dislikes this enables her to cater for their individual needs.

Children receive lots of praise and encouragement as they play. This means they become confident and have good self esteem. The childminder uses consistent strategies to manage their behaviour, for instance, she distracts the youngest children from a situation and talks to the older ones about their behaviour helping them to resolve their issues. Therefore, children start to learn right from wrong. Children's needs are met as parents make firm written agreements with the childminder. They are kept well informed of the care their children receive as there is a good range of policies in place. The childminder takes time each evening to provide parents with feedback on their child's day sharing news of their progress and details of how they have been. Therefore, parents are well informed and children receive consistency of care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children feel secure in the well-organised environment. They have ample space to move around freely and independently. They receive good support from the childminder, who offers a variety of age appropriate activities which extend their learning experiences. The childminder keeps herself up-to-date with current childcare practices by attending training and by meeting and discussing relevant childcare issues with other childminders. This means she can offer a good standard of care and support children of all ages. Therefore, children make good progress in her care.

All regulatory paper work is maintained to a good standard. For example, the registration certificate is displayed and children's attendance is recorded, noting arrival and departure times. However, this is not fully secure as only first names are recorded. The childminder understands

her responsibilities for investigating any complaints parents may have about the care she provides under the National Standards. She provides them with Ofsted's contact details, should they require these. The childminder is a little unsure of some of the requirements of registration, for instance, how long certain records must be kept for. However, she has a positive attitude to developing her knowledge. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve some safety issues within her home. Since then she has made safe an electric socket in the hallway and she has put the fire blanket on a wall in the kitchen to ensure it is effective in an emergency. Therefore, children are thoroughly protected.

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

Since the last inspection Ofsted received one complaint relating to National Standard 2 - Organisation. The concern was that the childminder was over her registered numbers. An inspector carried out an unannounced visit and the concerns were fully investigated. As a result two actions were set under National standard 2 – Organisation and Standard 14 – Documentation. The provider responded satisfactorily and therefore 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 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 the system to record children's attendance is fully secure
- continue to develop knowledge and understanding of the requirements of registration

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)