

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	107185
<b>Inspection date</b>	29 October 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Alison Romanczuk

<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, first registered in 1992 lives in a three bedroom, three storey town house close to Surrey Quays in South East London. The property has a private garden. She lives at the property with her teenage son. Minded children have access to the main living room area, downstairs bathroom and the garden. The childminder is registered to care for three children under eight years old of whom three may be aged under five years old and of these one may be aged under a year old. She currently has two children on roll.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is given priority and the childminder ensures they can move around independently in an area which is clean and free from clutter. Children's growing bodies and need for fresh air is given priority and the children often use the childminders garden area for outdoor play. Food provided in consultation with the children's parents is nutritional and well balanced and suits children's individual needs and varied likes and dislikes. For example, one

child attending enjoys food cooked from his own and the childminders African diet. Children benefit from regular meals and snacks and readily available water.

The childminder maintains good hygienic standards, for example when changing children's nappies and ensures her own hands are regularly washed before changing or feeding the children in her care. Colourful fluffy blankets and alphabet mats which the childminder has placed on the floor encourage the children to explore the environment and to feel comfortable and warm whilst they move about. Children are well cared for when they are unwell and the childminder attentive to the children's needs. Clear medication procedures in place and consent gained from children's parents for emergency treatment ensures children's good health is maintained. Children's good health is further supported because the childminder has clear records about each child and she has an up to date first aid certificate.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is well maintained because the childminder takes positive steps to promote a safe environment where the children can play free from hazards. Children are consistently supervised when with the childminder and on outings and any accidents securely recorded. Comprehensive health and safety policies underpin the childminder's practice and are shared with the children's parents. The selection of equipment is regularly checked for breakages and to ensure it is suitable for the age range of the children attending. Children are kept safe from fire hazard because the childminder has a well thought out and practiced evacuation plan and fire prevention equipment such as smoke alarms and a fire blanket are in place. Children are generally well safeguarded from harm and the childminder talks to the children's parents about her responsibilities in this area. Policies in place, however are not up to date and the childminder lacks confidence in discussing up to date regulations in this area.

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

The provision is good.

Children have good opportunities to enjoy and progress well in their learning and social development because the childminder uses her experience as a mother and knowledge of children to provide a varied and stimulating environment. The childminder is very attentive and communicative to the children in her care so that, for example babies babble and giggle in response to her communication and constant interaction. They settle quickly in response to her warm and caring nature. She uses her knowledge of Birth to three matters well in providing for each child's need and in particular in allowing the children to learn at their own pace. As a result the children have good opportunities to use a range of toys and resources including the baby gym, building bricks, books, art, craft and drawing resources. They benefit from being able to explore the environment and the childminder gets to know their interests, for example and provides taped music to encourage their learning. Children's social skills are helped because the childminder takes children to local toddler groups where they can meet other children their age.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being with a childminder who is warm and caring and accepting of their differences. She gets to know the children well through a clear settling in procedure and by

discussing their needs with their parents. Positive relationships developed with the children's parents also helps her to share information about activities and procedures and to provide well for children's individual needs. Children's understanding of the wider world is supported because they are encouraged to use a range of materials in their play including valuable resources such as books which reflect different cultures and ways of life. The childminder is open to supporting children who may have disabilities and/or learning difficulties and works alongside parents to provide consistency. The children behave well because they develop secure relationships throughout their play and interaction with others but the childminder demonstrates less confidence in using positive behaviour management strategies. She has attended limited training in this area to support her work.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being with a childminder who is well organised overall and experienced in looking after children. She provides a clear routine in consultation with the children's parents so that children have a home from home experience and have time to rest, eat and play throughout the day. Policies and procedures in place clearly reflect the National Standards and the childminder seeks training where possible to update her skills. For example, she has an up to date first aid certificate and has recently attended workshops to support the Birth to three guidance. Whilst policies are in place the childminder demonstrates less confidence in safeguarding children and positive behaviour management and has had little training in these areas to date. Documentation in place has recently changed and the childminder is confident in recording all relevant information and consent from parents. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

During the last inspection the provider was asked to ensure that hazardous materials in the home were inaccessible to minded children and to provide a suitable range of books, toys and activities, in order to meet the developmental needs of babies and children from birth to under eight years old. The childminder now has a clear area in her main living room which is free from hazards and stair gates prevent children accessing other areas. As a result the children have ample room to explore the environment safely. She has an improved selection of toys and books suitable for different age groups and interests which the children can access to support their curiosity and development.

## **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 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):

- seek further training to secure understanding and build on confidence in safeguarding children regulations
- develop confidence in using positive behaviour management strategies

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)