

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY231203
<b>Inspection date</b>	31 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Jane Davenport
<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 2003. She lives with her husband, her adult son and her 14 year old daughter in a five bedroom house, which is situated in the Chingford area of the London borough of Waltham Forest. The whole of the ground floor of the premises is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children under eight years, and is currently minding one child on a part time basis. She attends the local carer and toddler group and pre-school on a regular basis.

The childminder has a pet guinea pig. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean and tidy environment and, from an early age, they learn the importance of good personal hygiene through effective daily routines. Hand washing and nappy changing

routines are effective in helping prevent the spread of infection; for example, children are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and before lunch and the childminder gives gentle reminders to them to roll their sleeves up, make sure they use soap and to dry their hands properly. The childminder keeps her first aid training up to date and has a good knowledge of first aid procedures; this means that she can give appropriate care if there is an accident. She records accidents that occur whilst the children are in her care and also existing injuries that children may have when they arrive. Parents give detailed information regarding their child's health requirements and these are extremely well met by the childminder. Parents provide prior written consent to administer medication, however, prior written consent for emergency medical treatment is not currently requested.

Parents provide meals and snacks for their children, and the childminder follows their instructions regarding the storage and preparation of these. She speaks to parents and children about healthy options and gathers all relevant information regarding diet and medical history to ensure that children's dietary and medical needs are met appropriately. Children are allowed to help with the preparation of their meals, where appropriate; for example, they sometimes chop up fresh fruit for fruit salad or make fruit smoothies with the childminder, and she allows minded children to help, under her direct supervision, by lifting them up and letting them press the button on the microwave. She explains why the food needs to be cooked through very thoroughly in order to kill any bacteria and ensures that meals have sufficiently cooled down before giving them to children.

Young children receive lots of warmth and affection; this supports their emotional well-being and gives them the confidence to explore new experiences. Children walk to the forest, local mother and toddler group and library on a regular basis, and this, together with their play sessions in the garden, enables them to gain fresh air and learn to develop a positive attitude towards regular exercise.

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

The provision is good.

The premises are organised to ensure that safety measures are effective; for example, radiators are fitted with covers, kitchen cupboards and drawers are fitted with safety catches and there is a secure outdoor play area. Children benefit from playing in a spacious well-organised environment, which allows them to move around safely and independently. The childminder gives priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe; for example, children are reminded not to put toys in their mouths and not to swing on the chairs in case they hurt themselves. The childminder has an effective emergency evacuation procedure which she practises with the children on a regular basis; this helps them to become familiar and confident with what to do should an emergency arise. There are systems in place for the safe arrival and departure of children as they are only released into the care of a known adult and this protects their well-being; however, the childminder does not currently seek written consent for local outings.

Children have access to a range of quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The childminder supervises the children's choice of toys to ensure that they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Younger children are able to have an undisturbed rest in the sitting room.

Children are well-protected. This is because the childminder has a good understanding of the physical and emotional signs which could indicate child protection concerns, and the appropriate

action to take, in line with the Local Area Safeguarding Board procedures. She has access to current guidelines and literature to support her with recognising abuse; this information contributes to children's safety and is made available to parents, allowing them to be empowered with the correct information, should they require it.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well settled at the childminder's house and are learning to become independent as they choose between a variety of toys, books and activities. They spend their time purposefully and are actively engaged and interested in the activities provided. Young children's learning is supported by the childminder, who is aware of each child's developmental stage; they are encouraged to count, use their physical senses, stack the bricks and knock them down again. The childminder encourages children to solve problems for themselves, for example, as they play with the puzzle cubes. Their vocabulary, imagination and communication skills are being developed as they listen and take part in role play and make believe play with the small world people. Extended discussions take place about the train that has been built, the driver, who is taking the other people to the seaside and the guard, who helps a man in a wheelchair to get on the train.

Children benefit a great deal from frequently going out on trips to toddler groups, parks, the forest and the library. This enables them to develop social skills, as they play and participate in activities in a group setting, and learn about their local environment. They enjoy splashing in puddles in their wellington boots and recall the fun that they have when they discuss the wet and windy weather with their childminder.

The childminder has developed a caring and trusting relationship with the children she looks after and children feel confident to approach her in the knowledge that she will do her best to ensure that their needs are met.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of equality issues. She looks after children from various backgrounds and has a positive attitude towards diversity. She has a very good range of toys, equipment and resources that contain many positive images of society and she uses these effectively and in line with her ongoing commitment to providing inclusion for all children and their families. A good example of this can be seen when she joins in with a child who is playing with a doll in a wheelchair; the learning opportunities are extended very well by discussing the possible reasons for him being in a wheelchair and by getting the guard to help him on to the train.

Although the childminder is not presently caring for children with learning and/or physical disabilities, she has a positive and sensitive attitude towards this and close liaison with parents and outside agencies ensures all children's needs are well planned for and met.

Children's behaviour is generally very good; this is as a result of the childminder developing consistent methods for managing behaviour, which takes into account their age, level of understanding and maturity. She uses distraction to good effect, is patient, but firm when she needs to be and good behaviour is positively reinforced by means of praise and affirmation.

Children benefit from the childminder's commitment to working in partnership with parents; this ensures that children's individual needs are well catered for, and enables parents to play an active role in the care of their child. Information is shared with parents, who receive daily feedback on their child's progress. Written testimonials bear witness to the parents' satisfaction with the care that their children receive and they comment on the warm, caring environment and range of stimulating activities provided.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are confident, settled and happy, as they play in the stimulating and organised environment. Children are familiar with the well-implemented routine, which provides them with security and a sense of belonging. Their care is enhanced due to the childminder being aware of her role and responsibility in ensuring children are safe, stimulated and healthy. The childminder recognises the need to update her training, and has taken steps to seek information about forthcoming courses for attendance.

Good systems are in place for sharing information with parents about their child's care. Record keeping is generally good; registers are up to date, containing children's hours of attendance and information kept about children is relevant, which helps to promote their welfare. All required records are stored in a safe and confidential manner and are accessible in the case of an emergency or for inspection purposes. The provider meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection a recommendation was made to increase resources and activities that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Since then the childminder has obtained dressing up outfits, small world play, puzzles, books and musical instruments to represent different cultures and religions; she also has a selection of dolls featuring different levels of ability. These improvements have resulted in increased opportunities for children to learn about and respect different members of society.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since 1 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):

- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- obtain written permission from parents for routine outings

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)