

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	109873
<b>Inspection date</b>	29 October 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Christine Lynne Hodge

<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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1992. She lives with her two adult daughters in a three bedroom, three-storey house close to Plumstead Common in the London Borough of Greenwich. Childminding generally takes place on the ground floor although one of the bedrooms is also available to children. There is a fully enclosed back garden that is used for outdoor play. The family have a pet dog and two cats .

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. At present she is regularly caring for 12 children in a variety of part-time places.

The childminder is a Greenwich Network childminder and a member of the National Childminding Association.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health is very well promoted because the childminder ensures that she provides them with a varied, nutritious, healthy diet with meals cooked daily from fresh ingredients which include pasta, chicken, fish, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit. Older children are encouraged to help contribute to the weekly menu planner which is shared with parents. Children's likes, dislikes and special dietary requirements are taken into consideration. Children also benefit from regular fresh air and exercise as they walk to and from school, and go on outings to parks, woodland areas and toddlers groups. The garden also provides good opportunities for children to take part in physical play using a range of resources to develop their large motor skills.

Children play and relax in very clean, well maintained surroundings. Good cleaning and hygiene routines ensure that the childminder's home is free from germs. For example, wooden floors and work surfaces are cleaned daily. The childminder has attended a basic food hygiene course. She has good procedures in place for the appropriate storage of food and provides colour coded chopping boards for food preparation to prevent cross contamination. Children are learning good personal hygiene. They are encouraged to wash their hands after going to the toilet and before meal times. Picture signs on the bathroom door help to remind younger and less able children of bathroom routines. A comprehensive sick child policy which is shared with parents ensures that children who are unwell remain at home, in order to prevent cross infection. The childminder holds an up-to-date first qualification and has a fully stocked first aid box which is readily accessible. This together with parents consents allowing her to seek advice and treatment ensures that children receive appropriate care in the event of an emergency. Medication and accident records are thoroughly maintained. The childminder has a pet policy which is shared with parents and provides details of worming and vaccination programmes for her dog and cats.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a warm, homely, child friendly environment. Play space is extremely well organised so that children can move around safely and confidently. Furniture, equipment and play resources are in very good condition and meet the children's needs. Toys are easily accessible allowing children to make choices about what they want to play with. All necessary precautions are in place to keep children safe. These include safety gates to the bottom and top of the stairs, and kitchen doorway, socket covers, a fire blanket and smoke detectors which are regularly checked. Children are learning about keeping themselves safe as they part in regular fire drills which are well recorded. The childminder teaches them to cross the road safely using the Green Cross Code and talks to them about stranger danger. Indoors children are encouraged to help clear away toys to keep play space free from hazards.

Children are very well protected as necessary checks have been completed on family members and the childminder demonstrates a thorough knowledge and understanding of child protection in line with Local Safe Guarding Children Boards procedures.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are happy, confident and very much at home in their surroundings. They relish their time spent with the childminder as they have great fun taking part in an excellent range of well planned activities which promote their enjoyment, learning and development. The childminder uses the Birth to three matters frame work for younger children and has recently begun introducing elements of the Foundation Stage curriculum into her planning for the children who have just turned three years old. The daily routine ensures that children have a very good combination of adult led and child centred activities. For example, after a busy morning making scare crows, singing songs, blowing bubbles in the garden, listening to stories and playing a matching game with the childminder, children thoroughly enjoy initiating their own play as they pretend to be busy workman using tools and walkie-talkies. The childminder has an excellent selection of play resources for children of all ages. These include various construction, role play, puzzles, books, creative materials, play dough, painting, musical toys, educational toys and a good selection of baby toys.

The childminder is skilled at using activities and routines to help children learn their colours, numbers and shapes. For example, as children excitedly chase the bubbles in the garden she talks to them about the shapes the bubbles are making and then gets them to think about and describe lots of round objects. Children are constantly engaged in conversation with the childminder helping them become skilful communicators. Routines for babies and younger children are organised around their individual needs for sleeping and eating. The childminder ensures that babies receive lots of attention and cuddles at the same time she is supporting the other children with their activities. During the week children benefit from a range of outings which include visits to toddler groups and childminder pop-ins where they can socialise with other children; and to parks and woodland areas for nature walks and physical play. After school and during holidays the older children enjoy going on trips, playing in the garden and taking part in various creative activities. They have recently completed self-portraits for a theme on difference and are currently in the process of making a collage using finger paints.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder welcomes children and families from all cultural and religious backgrounds into her home. Children's individual needs are very well met as the childminder knows the children and families well, having cared for several of their siblings over the past few years. She has devised a new form for parents to complete giving her lots of information about children's likes, dislikes, favourite toy, sleep patterns and routines. Children take part in a range of activities that help them to accept difference and learn about diversity and disability. For example, all the minded children have completed self portraits which are displayed on the kitchen wall. They celebrate different festivals and have access to a good range of positive image play resources such as dolls, puzzles, books and small world figures. Children with learning difficulties and disabilities are well supported by the childminder.

Strategies for managing behaviour are appropriate to children's age and stage of development and very much focus on positive reinforcement. The childminder acts as a good role model and talks to children in a calm and caring manner. She constantly praises and encourages good behaviour to promote children's self esteem. As a result children are happy, confident and very polite. They play well together and are learning to share and take turns.

Excellent relationships with parents ensures consistency and continuity for parents and children. The childminder provides parents with comprehensive information about her childminding practice in a portfolio which includes a full set of policies and procedures. She has very good procedures in place for keeping parents informed about their children's day and progress. For example, daily record sheets are used for babies and journals are completed for older children. Certificates of registration and insurance are displayed in the hallway together with an Ofsted poster. The childminder has appropriate procedures in place for recording complaints. Contracts, child record forms and consent forms are all completed with parents.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children benefit from being cared for by a professional, experienced, well organised childminder who has an excellent knowledge and understanding of their needs and development. She has recently completed an NVQ level 3 and has also attended many training courses in order to keep her childcare knowledge up-to-date. She demonstrates a very good understanding of the National Standards and of the requirements of her registration. She has devised a comprehensive set of policies and procedures that support her knowledge and practice. Children receive excellent adult support. The day is very well planned to provide children with a wide range of interesting and stimulating activities both indoors and outside the home. Play space and resources are extremely well organised so that children can move around safely and make choices about their play. All legally required documentation for the safe and efficient management of the provision is in place and is maintained to high standard. This includes children's attendance, where their arrival and departure times are recorded, accidents and medication records, consent forms, child record forms and contracts. Each child has a separate confidential folder containing all necessary records.

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

At the previous inspection the childminder was asked to increase the range of play resources which represent disabilities. She has done this by purchasing a number of small world figures which represent a range of different disabilities. As a result children are gaining a better understanding about disability and difference.

### **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 complaint 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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)