

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	124204
<b>Inspection date</b>	25 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Rebecca Elizabeth Khabbazi
<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 1993. She lives with her husband, two adult children and two children aged seven and twelve years old. The family live in a three bedroom house in a residential area of Thornton Heath. The downstairs of the house is the main area used for childminding. A garden is available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children under eight years old, and there are currently four children under eight years on roll. The childminder also cares for children over eight.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn simple good hygiene practices when they wash their hands before they eat and after they use the toilet. They use liquid soap and have an individual towel and flannel, which

helps reduce the risk of cross-contamination. Children enjoy regular meals and snacks that meet their nutritional needs and take into account their preferences. They begin to develop healthy eating habits when they have fruit and yogurt for pudding, and they have regular drinks which ensures they are well-hydrated. Children take part in daily physical activity, which contributes to a healthy lifestyle. They run around and use large equipment at preschool groups, enjoy visits to the park and play on the slide in the garden. They are taken good care of if they have an accident or become unwell as the childminder has an up to date first aid certificate and has clear systems in place to keep records about their health needs, any accidents they have and any medicine they need to be given.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, suitably maintained home with facilities to meet their needs. They have access to a good range of toys and play materials which they help themselves to in the playroom. The childminder checks toys on a regular basis and ensures they are kept clean and in good condition, which means children can play safely. Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder takes effective steps to reduce potential hazards. For instance she makes sure that she keeps cleaning materials and any other hazardous items out of children's reach and that the house is kept secure. The childminder is vigilant about supervising children closely at all times in the home and when on outings. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibilities towards the children in her care. She has completed a child protection course and is familiar with possible signs of abuse or neglect. She knows what to do if she is worried about a child, but does not currently have local contact details and safeguarding children guidance readily accessible to refer to if required.

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

The provision is good.

Children are confident and relaxed in the childminder's home. They have good relationships with the childminder, who is warm and caring towards them and responsive to their needs. They show pleasure when she joins in with their games, sings with them, asks questions to encourage their learning, and gives lots of praise, which fosters their confidence and self-esteem. Children enjoy imaginative role play games, dressing their dolls for a party and preparing a picnic on the living room floor, or pretending their toy animals need to visit the vet. They eagerly sit at the table to make models with play dough, and confidently help themselves to the wide variety of play materials available in the playroom. Children take part in a broad range of activities and experiences that support their development and learning and are appropriate for their age and needs. They enjoy outings to preschool groups to socialise with other children, visits to feed the ducks in local parks or practise their physical skills in a playground, and trips to the library to join in rhyme time or chose a new book. At the childminder's home they enjoy freeplay such as dressing up or playing with the sand in the garden, as well as planned activities such as art and craft or making cakes, while older children can relax at the end of the school day.

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

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the setting and valued as individuals, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The childminder plans activities so that all children can take part at their own level, and older children enjoy helping those who are younger. The childminder encourages children to develop a positive view of the wider community by acting as a good role model and answering children's questions. There are some resources that reflect diversity, but play materials for children in this area are not currently fully developed. Children respond well to the childminder's calm, consistent approach. She gently reminds them of her expectations, such as tidying up before they get out more toys or that they need to share and take turns, this helps children behave well and learn to play harmoniously together. Children benefit from good relationships between their parents and the childminder. They talk every day to exchange information and clear written agreements and consents are in place. This helps children experience consistent care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder makes good use of local opportunities to attend courses and continually develop her knowledge and skills, and she makes sure that required childminding training is kept up to date. All of the required records that promote children's health, safety and wellbeing are in place, as well as a range of additional policies, procedures and information about the setting. The childminder makes good use of space and resources to meet children's needs. There is a welcoming room dedicated to play where children can easily access toys and play materials, and they can move freely around the areas used for minding due to effective safety precautions. The childminder organises her day so that there is time for active and quiet play, mealtimes and rest. This all helps children make the most of the play and learning opportunities provided. 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 devise and practise an emergency escape plan. A written evacuation plan is now in place and the childminder practises this on a monthly basis with minded children. This ensures prompt action can be taken in the event of an emergency. The childminder was also asked to make sure all household members over 16 years were vetted. Relevant checks have now been completed for everyone over 16 years old, which helps safeguard children's welfare.

## **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):

- make sure that local child protection guidance and contact details are readily accessible to refer to if required
- continue to increase the range of resources and activities available that encourage children to value diversity

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)