

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	128922
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 December 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Pamela Bailey
<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 was registered in 1999. She lives with her husband and three children ages 10, 12 and 14 years in the London Borough of Lewisham. The whole of the ground floor plus bathroom and toilet on first floor 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 three children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years, all of whom attend on a part-time basis and three children over five years before and after school. The childminder supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local playgroup, childminders' drop-ins and takes children to local parks.

The family have two guinea-pigs and tropical fish.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Young children receive lots of warmth and affection. This supports their emotional well-being and gives them the confidence to explore new experiences. Children take part in physical activities that contributes to keeping them healthy. For example, outings to the park where there are large climbing apparatus, riding wheeled toys and using the trampoline in the garden gives children plenty of opportunity to develop their balance and coordination.

Children have a choice of nutritious meals with attractively presented fresh salads and fresh fruits. This helps them to develop healthy eating habits from an early age. They receive regular drinks and are encouraged to drink plenty of water. The childminder gathers all information regarding children's health needs such as diet and medical history. This ensures that children's dietary and medical needs are met. The childminder follows individual routines for eating and sleeping. This ensures continuity of care and contributes to children's physical well-being.

Children play in a clean environment. They automatically wash their hands after using the toilet but are not encouraged to wash their hands at other times such as before eating. The childminder has effective nappy changing procedures in place and parents are made aware of her written sick child policy. This helps to prevent the spread of infection and contagious ailments.

All documentation required are in place and well maintained. For example, parents countersign the accident records and give prior written permission for the childminder to administer medication and to seek a medical assistant or advice in an emergency. The childminder has attended first aid training. This ensures she can give appropriate care if there is an emergency.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious environment. Toddlers move around freely and learn to control their own body gaining physical skills appropriate to their stage of development and children have easy access to a satisfactory range of toys and resources.

Children benefit from some good safety measures. The childminder carries out daily risk assessments and ensures that most risks and potential hazards are minimised. For example, sockets in areas used by the children have covers, electrical wires and sharp knives are inaccessible to the children and low level cupboards have child safety locks. Although the childminder supervises children at all times, the stairs are accessible to young children and the trampoline in the garden does not have a safety net. These are potential risks to children.

The childminder is aware of some of the possible signs of abuse and know how to proceed if she has a concern about a child in her care. However, the childminder does not have the Local Safeguarding Children's Board contact details in place and is not fully aware of the procedures to be followed if an allegation is made against her.

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

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to develop their own preferences and make choices for themselves. They enjoy and learn from a range of activities that are easily accessible and provide stimulation. Very young children explore and investigate how things work using their senses. For example, they play with interactive robotic animals that make animal sounds in response to clapping or stroking. They fill containers with different objects and listen to the sounds when shaken or use one object to bang against another. Older children play guessing games. The childminder gives information about an animal and the children guess what it is.

Children count confidently during everyday experiences such as when walking up or down the stairs and are supported well as they complete a range of puzzles and are encouraged to problem solve for themselves. Young children's communication skills are developing well. Children are able to express their thoughts and feelings as they discuss past and forthcoming events. For example, activities that they have previously participated in and taking part in their school Christmas play. Children enjoy books and listen avidly to stories. They learn new words such as 'cocoon' and about changes in the natural environment such as caterpillars change into butterflies and different types of animals such as an otter. Children's imaginative development is encouraged through activities such as role play. Children have opportunities to socialise with other children as they attend different groups.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and make themselves at home. They talk happily about things that are important to them and have time to relax or be active according to their individual needs. The childminder treats children with respect and use lots of praise and encouragement to promote their self-esteem. Her consistent, calm and gentle approach helps children to respond effectively to routine tasks and promotes good behaviour.

Children are learning to accept differences through the childminder's positive interaction. For example, clear guidance, for instance, a gentle reminder of the need to look at the childminder when talking so that she can lip read helps children to begin to accept the needs of others. However, children have access to a limited range of resources that provide them with a positive outlook on the wider world inside the childminder's home. The childminder ensures that she know about children's needs with regard to their spoken language and currently supports a number of children who speak English as an additional language. She supports and encourages use of language through activities such as storytelling, singing, signs and gestures.

Parents share information about their children. However, the childminder does not gather information about children's culture or religious needs so that she can help children to acknowledge their own culture or religion and see it as important. The childminder ensures that parents are made aware of her written policies and procedures such as the complaints policy. Although the childminder has Ofsted's complaint record template in place she is not fully aware of the procedures for recording complaints and as a result parents are misguided about its use. For example, if the childminder is unable to resolve a complaint parents can complete the complaints record and send it to Ofsted.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children receive good support to help them feel secure and promote their learning and development. This gives children the confidence to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Children's safety is promoted appropriately in most areas.

The childminder attends training whenever she can and has attended training on Food Hygiene, Assertiveness Skills for Childminders, the Early Years Foundation Stage and is currently working towards a professional qualification. Although the childminder has attended child protection training she is not fully aware of all child protection issues. As a result children's welfare is not fully safeguarded in all areas.

All documentation is in place and readily available for inspection. Written policies and procedures such as the lost child and uncollected child policy are shared with parents to keep them informed about the service. Information kept about children is relevant and contributes to continuity in the children's care in most areas.

Overall 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 agreed to improve aspects of children's safety. The childminder has made significant improvements in most areas to ensure children's safety. The childminder has ensured that the fire blanket is kept in a prominent place in the kitchen, electrical wires are inaccessible to the children and most potential risks and hazards to children in the garden have been minimised.

## **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 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):

- implement effective routines so that children learn the importance of washing hands at all times

- assess the risks to children in relation to the stairs and outdoor trampoline and take action to minimise these
- improve knowledge and understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) child protection procedures and obtained Lewisham's LSCB contact details.
- improve the range of resources which reflect positive images of diversity and keep a record of children's individual culture and religious needs
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements for recording complaints made by parents and make sure that parents are aware of it

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)