

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	135214
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Michele, Karen Beasley

<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 husband and their two adult children. They live in a block of flats close to Edgware Road and St Johns Wood in the NW8 area. The flat is within walking distance of local shops, schools, and community recreation resources. Most areas of the flat are used for childminding. There is no garden area, however the childminder takes children to the local park, attractions and attends the local carer and toddler group on a regular basis. The family have no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time. The childminder is currently minding four children under eight years on a full-time and part-time basis. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and Westminster Childminders Network.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming home where they learn the importance of high levels of hygiene and personal care. Exemplary practices are strongly encouraged. The childminder helps children to gain an excellent understanding of hygiene and a real desire to become increasingly independent in their personal care. Children actively learn to protect themselves against the harmful effects of germs as they use antibacterial solutions to cleanse and eradicate dirt from their hands. Exceptional vigilance by the childminder ensures opportunities to extend discussion as to the reason why hand washing is important. Babies bottles are washed thoroughly and sterilized. Perishable items from children's lunch boxes are kept in the fridge at the correct temperature. This substantially reduces the risk of cross contamination.

The childminder maintains an accident book in accordance with requirements. Children receive appropriate first aid because the childminder maintains her first aid skills through regular training. Clear procedures for hygienic nappy changing include the use of disposable gloves when dealing with bodily fluids and the safe disposal of soiled nappies to prevent the spread of infection.

Children are positively encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle because the childminder provides healthy snacks and meals and promotes children's knowledge and understanding of nutritional issues through discussion and activities. Children develop an increased awareness of the benefits of a healthy diet as they enjoy snacks such as fresh fruit and home cooked food such as chicken and fish dishes with couscous, rice and vegetables. Parents are given menu planners so the childminder can respect parental wishes and religious preferences such as supplying halal meat. The children learn good manners and social rules whilst eating, and respond to one another with courtesy and care. Children are positively encouraged to drink water and milk which is constantly available.

Children enjoy fresh air and exercise such as going to the local parks and toddler groups and meeting with other childminders and their children which contributes to their good health and physical development. They use swings and climbing equipment in the park to develop their physical skills and co-ordination. Children have opportunities to develop their small muscle skills and are becoming competent learners. They independently use tools such as paint brushes, glue sticks and scissors which supports the development and improvement of children's physical dexterity.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has an exemplary understanding of the potential dangers and hazards within her flat, enabling children to move freely and safely around the premises. For example, the cooker in the kitchen is chained to the wall, radiators are covered, safety locks are on windows, cleaning products are kept up high in the kitchen and stair gates are used to prevent children from accessing areas unsupervised. Children learn how to take care of themselves through daily routines, for example, learning to use public transport and to cross roads safely. The childminder makes sure she takes out with her children's emergency contact numbers and her own emergency back up plan and first aid supplies. Children are settled and safe due to the exceptional levels

of support and supervision provided by the childminder. A fire officer has visited the premises, a fire evacuation plan is displayed, fire drills are recorded in detail and continuous risk assessments are carried out on the areas used by the children which ensures children's safety.

Children are protected as the childminder has a very good understanding of child protection procedures. The childminder has her own written policy and procedure in place and constantly updates her own knowledge and understanding in this area by attending relevant training courses. The childminder is used as a respite placement by Social Services. Children are able to access resources freely, developing their independence fully. The extensive well maintained toys and play equipment is stored in labelled boxes and on shelves in the hallway and at ground floor level around the lounge. Children make their own choices throughout the day and the childminder supports and encourages them, promoting their self-esteem effectively.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely happy. The childminder interacts with the children exceptionally well, talking to them all the time, making eye contact, playing at their level and showing affection. Detailed individual scrapbooks show children experimenting and exploring sand, playing musical instruments and dressing up. The childminder fully acknowledges individual abilities and uses the Birth to three framework to plan her activities for the younger children.

Children participate in topics such as the jungle. Children count jungle animals, sort into pairs, shapes, and family groups and sing animal counting songs. They go on trips to the library, look and read books, about the jungle, talk and sing about different animals in the jungle, naming each animal, copying sounds they make. Children have made a large jungle collage, using different creative media. The childminder plans her topics using the Foundation Stage of learning.

The childminder has a very good understanding of children's developmental needs. She participates fully during activities, encouraging children to join in. Children have good opportunities to develop an extensive range of skills and progress well in all areas in a stimulating, exciting and interesting environment. Children benefit from the childminder's exceptional strong support. She is affectionate and sings lullabies to the children whilst cuddling them when they are tired. She organises the routines to ensure all children have the opportunities for group activities, such as picnics in Regents Park, visits to London Zoo with other childminders and their children, attending toddler groups, story time at the library and one-to-one activities, such as swimming.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children hold a strong awareness and understanding of others because the childminder actively provides opportunities for them to mix with others from a diverse range of backgrounds on a regular basis. For example, the childminder takes the children to a local music group and to the library. She actively strives to keep her service accessible to all. She provides an extensive range of resources and activities to promote a positive view of the wider world such as making my family and friends friezes out of photographs supplied by each child's family. She makes full use of the local Sure Start centre and toy library to supplement her equipment and provide increased variety and range. For example a large parachute. This means that children access unique equipment from specialised sources to enhance their learning. They establish a robust

understanding of their local community as they visit elderly people in the flats to present them with flowers and food for Harvest Festival. They visit attractions around London and other local amenities.

All children are highly valued and respected as individuals and are fully included in all activities. Presently there are no minded children with learning difficulties and or disabilities. Through discussion the childminder was able to demonstrate a clear understanding of her responsibilities. She would be happy to liaise with other agencies and would always work closely with the parents to meet the individual needs of the children. Children are highly confident individuals. They have positive levels of self-esteem and respect the opinions and actions of others because the childminder consistently praises their efforts. She reaffirms their achievements, guiding their social and moral values. Children receive excellent support according to their individual needs. Children's behaviour is good.

The childminder effectively meets children's needs through the daily routine as discussed with their parents. Parents actively contribute towards their children's learning and development because they remain fully informed of the daily activities and developmental milestones at all times. The childminder implements a highly effective induction session followed up with a detailed welcome pack which includes copies of all written policies and procedures. This initiates an exceptional two-way communication process which enables parents to fully participate in their child's development and learning. The childminder ensures that daily discussion about the service provided keeps parents informed about their child's activities. She maintains detailed individual profiles with photographs of attainment to monitor progression. The childminder positively invites parents to share their views on their children's developmental and care needs. This ensures parents are aware of activities, events, outings, celebrations of children's birthdays and any other issues such as changes to policies or amendments to practice.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children feel at home and are at ease within this exceptionally well-organised environment. They participate in the activities with eager relish, initiating their play and extending their learning. The childminder has a dynamic, professional approach to her childminding practice. She uses detailed written policies and procedures effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. All documentation is reviewed and changes implemented where appropriate. The childminder is committed to maintaining relevant and up to date knowledge of child care practice and legislative guidance. She uses childcare literature and the local authority training manual to maintain and improve her skills. The childminder offers high quality opportunities which are rooted in an expert knowledge of childcare and development. Comprehensive planning systems are actively monitored and adapted to keep children safe and to enable them to make good progress in all areas of their development. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable

## **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 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)