

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	141214
<b>Inspection date</b>	27 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Glenda Kathleen Field

<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 has been registered since 1993. She lives with her husband and three adult children in a house in Walthamstow, London. Languages spoken in the home include Spanish and English. Pre-schools, parks, shops and transport links are within easy walking distance. The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family have three cats as household pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. There are currently four children on roll, three attending on a part-time basis and one full-time. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Waltham Forest Childminding Network. Regular visits are made to parent and toddler groups and other under five's facilities in the borough. Walks are taken to the local market, parks and pre-schools.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is effectively promoted as the childminder seeks clear information from parents regarding their children's individual health care needs and ensures that necessary written consents are in place. The childminder has attended first aid training to ensure she is aware of the correct procedures to follow to maintain children's good health and prevent the spread of infection. However, food hygiene training has not been attended. The childminder has devised a comprehensive policy for the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious and a procedure for contacting parents if a child becomes ill whilst in the childminder's care.

Children are learning about the importance of good health and hygiene practices. For example, they are aware of the need to wash their hands before eating and after going to the toilet. Children are encouraged to be independent when using the ground floor toilet and use anti-bacterial soap to reduce the risk of cross-infection.

Children's individual dietary requirements are well understood and catered for as the childminder obtains detailed information from parents on their children's registration forms. Snacks provided by the childminder consist of bread sticks, rice cakes, raisins and fresh fruit. Cooked meals if required are provided, for example, Spanish stews, paella, risotto and pasta dishes, all accompanied by fresh vegetables. Children are offered regular drinks of water, milk or diluted squash.

Children enjoy an excellent range of physical play experiences that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Free access to the rear garden and regular visits to the local parks, toddler groups and children's soft play centres provide them with plenty of fresh air and access to a range of equipment offering appropriate challenges. Children develop control of their bodies while using the wheeled toys and climbing equipment. They develop their manipulative skills using a range of equipment, such as mark-making tools, art and craft equipment and construction kits.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an extremely safe and secure indoor and outdoor environment where they can move around freely and independently. The well-maintained house provides a warm and welcoming environment for children and their parents. The rooms are bright and light and the designated playroom is set up for play, with toys and resources organised effectively to enable children to choose activities that interest and motivate them.

The childminder has a very clear understanding of how to keep children safe and she has taken rigorous steps to reduce risks. For example, safety gates are used effectively to prevent children having access to the stairs, low-level cupboards are fitted with door straps preventing children accessing them and safety glass is in place for all low-level glass. Children are learning to keep themselves safe, such as road safety being reinforced when on outings. The childminder has sound procedures in place when taking children on outings or in a vehicle. A first aid kit is taken plus all emergency contact details for children. The vehicle insurance provides cover for the childminder's business.

Children have access to an extensive range of high quality toys and equipment which meet safety standards. All equipment is checked regularly and replaced as necessary. The childminder

closely monitors and supervises children's play to ensure they are safe and that toys are used appropriately. Children's welfare is well safeguarded and promoted because the childminder has attended child protection training, thus she is aware of her responsibilities and the correct procedures to follow if she has a concern. All the necessary documentation, to enable the childminder to effectively carry out her responsibilities concerning children's welfare is in place.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children have access to a very wide range of toys and play opportunities that are suitable for their ages and stages of development. They confidently make themselves at home because they are familiar with the daily routine and very secure in their relationships with the childminder which contributes to a strong sense of belonging and security. Children are becoming independent as they are encouraged to help tidy the toys and use the toilet facilities.

Children's behaviour is very good. The childminder encourages children's behaviour and achievements through the use of positive praise and encouragement. Children are extremely confident and play well together. They make friends with each other and the childminder's own grandchildren. Children are able to access toys freely from the floor-based containers and low-level shelving and are learning to take turns and to share resources.

The childminder is familiar with the 'Birth to three matters' framework and uses aspects of this in her practice. Displays in the playroom include posters relating to the framework and the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual needs are identified prior to the commencement of their care. Children are developing positive attitudes to diversity as the childminder includes images of the different people that make up our society within her resources, for example books, puzzles, play people and play food. Children become aware of the wider community through visits to parent and toddler groups, soft play areas, the local market, shops and parks.

The childminder has not to date cared for any child with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, however, she understands the importance of working with parents and other agencies involved with children with specific needs.

Children behave well, they are beginning to understand responsible behaviour and can distinguish between right and wrong. The childminder uses positive behaviour management strategies that are appropriate to each child's level of understanding and maturity.

The partnership with parents is exceptional. They are provided with extremely detailed information regarding the childminder's provision prior to the commencement of care. This information includes all policies and procedures of the setting and information regarding the logging of complaints. Children's ongoing progress is accommodated as the childminder works closely with parents, and provides opportunities at the beginning and end of each day to share information regarding the children to ensure continuity of care. Parents speak very highly of the childminder, and comments in testimonials include 'more than satisfied with the care and attention our children have experienced', 'always positive and realistic in her approach to

children', 'she has been a real friend and almost a fairy godmother' and 'a good sense of humour and appreciation of children's emerging characters'.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder is aware of the need to inform Ofsted of any changes relating to her registration. The registration certificate is displayed where it can be seen by parents. All adults living on the premises are checked for suitability, reassuring parents and keeping children safe. A comprehensive operational plan is in place, this includes records, contracts and a register used to record children's attendance. The childminder is experienced and knowledgeable and has attended the required training to support her registration.

The childminder organises her home to provide a welcoming and stimulating environment in which children take part in a range of activities to support their care, learning and play. Children are happy and enjoy their time with the childminder. They benefit from regular routines which help them feel confident and secure. The childminder follows sound procedures to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. Space and resources within the home and garden are well-organised to provide a good balance of activities for all the children attending. Overall children's needs are met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to make sure regular risk assessments are carried out in relation to the care of pets. All three cats are wormed and flea treated regularly and a cat flap has been installed in the rear door. The cat tray is now kept outside. These measures positively promote children's good health.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required Ofsted or the provider 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):

- ensure that food handling practices are up to date.

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)