

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	144436
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Rufia Uddin
<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 partner and adult son in a three bedroom house situated in the Leyton area of the London borough of Waltham Forest. The whole ground 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 four children at any one time. There are currently three children on roll.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, comfortable family home. Children are learning to wash their hands before eating and after messy activities, such as painting and garden play. Babies and young children use wipes. Nappies are changed hygienically. The childminder has a current first aid certificate and a first aid box. This means she can give appropriate care if there is an accident.

However, the childminder has not yet obtained parental permission for the seeking of emergency medical treatment or advice, to ensure that children are well cared for in an emergency situation.

Children enjoy a range of healthy snacks and meals which are provided by parents. Children sit at the table together to eat, and benefit from this social time when talking to one another and the childminder. Children have daily opportunities to be active and benefit from regular exercise. The childminder follows babies' individual routines for eating and sleeping. This ensures continuity of care. Young children engage in a range of indoor physical activities, for example, bouncing to music and crawling and stretching for a toy. Children enjoy playing outside in the garden and develop control of their bodies through riding on wheeled toys and slides and use of equipment at local carer and toddler groups. They also have opportunities for fresh air on trips to the park.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a generally safe and secure home where most risks are identified and minimised. Hazardous materials are out of the reach of the children and the safety gate was in place at the bottom of the stairs, to prevent access to the upstairs. Low cupboards have opening restrictors and medicines are in high cupboards. There are smoke alarms in place and the front door is kept locked so children can play securely. However, the fire blanket was not appropriately sited in the kitchen and there are no locks or bolts on the doors under the stairs. The shed is kept locked and the fences are secure in the garden.

The children were well settled and comfortable in their surroundings, having the confidence to move freely around the premises while playing, as a result of good supervision. Children mostly use the lounge and the hall for their activities. Children are well protected. The childminder has some understanding of child protection issues and knows how to proceed if she has concerns about a child in her care. This supports children's well being

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

The provision is good.

Children develop warm trusting relationships with the childminder and enjoy their time in her care. They are happy and content, babies snuggle up for a cuddle and enjoy looking at books with the childminder. Babies are given toys to hold and are able to practise sitting up with support. Interaction between children and the childminder is positive and the childminder sits on the floor playing with children. They become skilful communicators because the childminder uses words and gestures responding to children's babbles and introducing new skills and knowledge. Children are offered many opportunities to be creative using resources, such as paints and play dough, and engage in writing and colouring with different crayons. Children have frequent opportunities to be independent as they access the toys, manage putting on their coats when going out, and feed themselves with finger foods and at lunch time. Children enjoy opportunities to be imaginative and creative using a range of equipment such as dolls, cars and trains to express their ideas. Older children benefit from the use of a wide range of play provision suitable for their ages, such as board games, puzzles, creative activities and building models from a range of construction materials. Children's social skills are developed through regular attendance at the local parks and shops. The childminder is aware of Birth to three matters framework. However she is not currently using the Birth to three matters

framework to guide her planning of activities for the younger children and to plan the next steps in their learning.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with equal concern by the childminder and have equal opportunity of access to a range of age appropriate resources. Children are included in daily routines, such as helping to tidy away the toys. They are also encouraged to make choices, for example about toys and activities. As a result, they are developing confidence and a sound sense of belonging. They are also learning about the wider world and diversity as they access a satisfactory range of resources, such as books, dolls, and dressing up clothes which reflect positive images of diversity. Regular outings are also helping children to develop a sense of community. The childminder has some understanding of how to support children with learning difficulties/disabilities. Children show care and concern for each other and play together and behave well. She uses clear speech and direction to help children understand what is expected of them. Children enjoy lots of encouragement and purposeful praise; thereby giving them confidence.

Children benefit from the satisfactory partnerships the childminder has with parents. Parents are given information about the childminder's provision. The childminder makes sure parents are informed about the service she provides. Children are settled gradually into the childminder's care, to make sure that they and their parents get to know her well before the childminding placement begins. The childminder uses written contracts with parents. She talks to parents at collection time about the day, outings and activities the children have taken part in. The childminder makes sure parents are aware of her obligations regarding child protection and also her regard for confidentiality. No written diary is kept of the children's developmental progress.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home and at ease within the environment. The childminder has created a child-centred environment in which she offers support to the children's learning and play. Children's toys and resources are stored in a way that makes them easily accessible to the children. The childminder ensures that most of her day is spent supporting children in their play and in interaction with one another. She knows the children well and tries to make sure that all children are actively engaged. This helps children to feel secure and confident.

Children are protected from access by unsuitable people by the checking and supervision procedures in place. The childminder notified Ofsted of a significant change when her partner moved in. She has obtained the relevant disclosure application form for criminal record bureau checks.

A daily attendance record is kept, which gives information on children's arrival and departure times. Records are generally well maintained and are organised and are stored in individual files, ensuring confidentiality is maintained. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

In the last childcare inspection the childminder was asked to improve fire safety precautions by maintaining the smoke alarm on the first floor in working order. The childminder has ensured that there are now smoke alarms on both floors in working order. This helps to protect children from harm in the event of a fire.

### **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):

- obtain written parental consent for seeking emergency medical treatment or advice
- improve fire safety precautions by ensuring that a fire blanket, which conforms to British Standard European Number (BS EN) standards, is appropriately located in the kitchen
- develop planning of activities in line with the Birth to three matters framework for the younger children, and use framework to plan the next steps in children's learning
- make sure that criminal records checks for all persons over the age of 16 years are completed as quickly as possible
- fit locks or bolts on the doors under the stairs.

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)