

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	159935
<b>Inspection date</b>	21 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Christine Jacqueline Davies
<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 2001. She lives with her husband and two adult children, in a five bedroom house, in the London borough of Southwark. The whole of the 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 and is currently minding five children who attend on a part time basis. The childminder walks to the local schools to take and collect children and attends the local parent/toddler groups. The family have no pets.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Good systems are in place, which ensure that children's health is protected. For example, the premises are cleaned on a daily basis and gloves are used to change nappies. Children benefit from a healthy diet and enjoy a good range of meals and snacks that reflect their dietary needs. Children's physical health is promoted because the childminder ensures that children participate in regular physical activities. For example, children play outdoors on a regular basis and also

have opportunities to visit the park, where they can access larger play equipment. Systems are in place regarding accident and medication procedures and permission from parents to administer medication and seek emergency medical treatment is in place. However, the childminder has not ensured that parents consistently sign the medication book after each entry, which means at times children's welfare is not entirely safeguarded. The childminder has maintained her first aid certificate and has a good understanding of first aid procedures. This contributes to children's safety and well-being.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe environment. Children explore their surroundings with confidence, because the childminder has ensured that the main play areas are kept generally free of hazards. However, hazardous items stored in the bathroom are within easy reach to children, which potentially compromises their safety. The childminder has ensured that appropriate fire safety equipment, such as a fitted fire blanket and smoke detectors, are in good working order, helping to keep children safe from harm. Children access toys and equipment safely in the home, because they are well organised and in good condition. Consideration is given to children's safety when they are off the premises. For example, the childminder ensures that children hold hands when crossing the road and that younger children are securely strapped in the pushchair. However, she has not obtained written consent from parents to take children on local outings. The childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues and is aware of steps to take, should she have a concern about a child in her care. However, she does not have up to date guidance in line with local safeguarding procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a flexible routine. The childminder ensures that children are involved in a wide variety of activities and experiences, that are age and developmentally appropriate. For example, children enjoy a range of arts and crafts, use resources that promote imaginative play and enjoy visits to places such as, the Hornimans museum, where they can take part in organised story time sessions. Children have developed a positive relationship with the childminder and benefit from plenty of individual attention, helping them to feel confident and secure. Children are encouraged to be independent and are able to choose activities according to their interests. They enjoy a relaxed environment and relate well to the childminder, promoting their sense of enjoyment.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's calm and consistent approach, so as a result, they are happy and settled. All children are treated with equal concern and the childminder ensures that she provides an inclusive environment. The childminder provides a good range of resources reflecting diversity, which help children develop a positive respect towards others. The childminder has clear expectations of children and ensures that behaviour strategies used, are age and developmentally appropriate. In addition to this, children develop a strong sense of right and wrong, because the childminder praises them when they display positive behaviour. Good communication with parents ensures that children's individual needs are valued and respected. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She

understands that some children have particular needs and is committed to working in partnership with parents to provide the best level of care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Detailed policies and procedures help to promote the safety and well-being of children. The childminder ensures that the needs of the children in her care, are her first priority. Children are settled within their environment, which helps them gain confidence and be independent. The organisation of play resources enables children to access equipment freely to support their overall development. The main play areas used by children are kept free from hazards, however, some hazardous items in the bathroom are easily accessible to children. All required documentation is place, however, the childminder has not ensured that parents consistently sign the medication book after each entry and has not obtained consent for outings. The childminder is committed to developing her knowledge of childcare and is currently studying for a Diploma in Home based Childcare. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The previous care inspection, recommended that the childminder ensures that the record of children's attendance is kept up-to-date and that she updates her first aid certificate, which includes training in first aid for babies and young children. In addition to this, it was recommended that parents are provided with a written policy about the exclusion of children who are sick or infectious and that a first aid box is in place. Since the last inspection, the childminder has ensured that the attendance register is maintained accurately and that she holds a current first aid certificate. The childminder has also devised a sickness policy, which is available to parents. A fully stocked first aid box is now in place.

## **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):

- ensure that parents sign the medication book after each entry
- ensure that hazardous items in the bathroom, are kept out of reach and that consent for outings is obtained
- obtain up to date child protection guidance, which is in line with local safeguarding procedures

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)