

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 401715 |
| Inspection date | 13 February 2008 |
| Inspector | Claire, Alexandra Parnell |
| Type of inspection | Childcare |
| Type of care | 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.

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 a registered childminder since 2001. She lives with her husband, step son and three children. They live in a house in a residential area of Plumstead within easy access of Woolwich Common and town centre. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a total of four children under the age of eight years. She currently cares for five children in total, two of whom are over the age of eight years and all are cared for part time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Child Minders Association (NCMA) and regularly attends activities and events put on by the Greenwich branch. She takes children to and collects them from Notre Dame primary school. The childminder is qualified to NVQ level three.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from excellent hygiene procedures that are effectively developing children's understanding of personal hygiene. Children remind each other about washing their hands on entering the house from school and before their cooking activity. They have easy access to the downstairs toilet where each child has a colour coded flannel for washing and drying. The same colour matches their own cup to effectively prevent cross infection. Children are encouraged to participate in cleaning tables for cooking activities to promote hygiene further. They confidently remind other children about food hygiene during the cooking activities. Children's ongoing health needs are highly promoted due to the thorough documentation and monitoring of accidents, existing injuries and medication administration.

The childminder promotes a strong emphasis on healthy eating when caring for children. Children are encouraged to plan their menus for tea a day in advanced. Full discussions take place about healthy eating and healthy options. Children choose an excellent and varied range of toppings to put on their pizzas to demonstrate their clear understanding of a balanced diet. The childminder carefully and subtly promotes fresh fruit and vegetables for their meals and snacks by preparing smoothies and hidden vegetables in sauces. Children's dietary restrictions are substantially catered for due to the childminder's knowledge of children's preferences and requirements.

Children take part in regularly planned and extensive physical exercise such as walking to and from school, trips to the parks and local open spaces. Children openly enjoy dancing and movement and freely play music around the house to further promote their physical wellbeing. During warmer months children have free access to the garden where there is a good range of resources to promote new skills and development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a very safe and secure environment, giving them opportunities to choose places for independent play. The house is a clean and non-cluttered environment that has been carefully assessed to remove all potential hazards from children. Children are not able to leave the premises unattended due to the high level of security measures in place. The childminder successfully uses gates at the bottom of the stairs and at the kitchen door to make these areas inaccessible to children. The only time children enter the kitchen is when they are being a "helper" for the day and under the supervision of the childminder. All resources, activities and toys are accessible to children in suitable storage containers at a sensible height to promote independent choices.

The childminder has good contingency plans in place for emergency cover, informing parents of these plans and ensuring all parents have met the emergency registered childminder at their initial visit. Children are very aware of fire safety and what to do in an emergency due to the well planned meeting with the fire service where children and parents were involved in the visit and listened to the fire service's advice. The childminder has a well thought out escape route which is regularly practiced with all the children. Children are transported safely within the childminder's car. Relevant insurance is in place and all children sit in appropriate car seats for

their age and size. Children demonstrate a very confident awareness of road safety, describing what they are expected to do when walking along the road to keep themselves safe.

Children's welfare is promoted well due to the childminder's extensive knowledge of child protection and safeguarding issues. She has attended training to insure her knowledge is up to date. Children's changes in behaviour and characters are carefully monitored. The childminder clearly understands the importance of recording concerns and immediately gaining support from the local authority if significant concerns arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual learning, development and care needs are significantly promoted by the childminder. Children receive exceptional encouragement to participate in the planned and spontaneous activities provided by the childminder. There is strong emphasis on child-centred learning, allowing the children to take the lead in all routines and activities, with the childminder giving excellent levels of guidance and support; such as allowing children to plan their menu, prepare the foods and eat socially together afterwards. The childminder has an extensive knowledge of child development and uses her versatile skills to promote the effective use of the Birth to three matters framework for young children. Children's development is observed, recorded and shared openly with parents for continuity of care. Older children are encouraged to feedback to parents themselves about their day at school and their time with the childminder. The childminder actively reflects on the children's day to plan for the next day. Children are heavily encouraged to make choices for themselves as well as voice their opinions of what they would like to do as a group. Children gain excellent levels of support and guidance throughout their play, including time spent doing their homework after school. The childminder is very much aware of learning strategies used at school so therefore children flourish and gain more confidence in their school work. Children successfully follow themes such as "country" days where they learn about each other's country of origin, find out information about other countries through quizzes and research. Children are overall unquestionably interested in each others play and demonstrate a love for each other's company.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individuality is highly celebrated and reflected through positive practice. The childminder is highly aware of children's backgrounds and reflects this very positively through their care. She encourages parents to inform her of any changes in circumstances to ensure their changing care needs are met accordingly. Children have access to a wealth of resources that portray positive images; such as books, posters, disability figures and the food that they eat. Children's identity is excellently portrayed and reflected through themes about countries of origin. Parents are invited to take part in these celebrations by cooking traditional meals for children.

Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities have excellent levels of support from the childminder. The childminder carefully and subtly liaises with the school and parents to provide a learning support programme to offer consistent and continuing encouragement for children to progress.

Children receive very thorough and consistent behaviour management strategies which strongly emphasises positive recognition. Children are constantly praised for their consideration and

good manners. Every achievement is valued and recognised, therefore children feel proud and have high levels of confidence and self-esteem. Children take on roles of responsibility throughout their time with the childminder, planning the next day's menu, deciding what group activity to play with and explaining the session to the other children. The childminder sensitively underpins children's decisions with discussion and explanations regarding acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. This results in children's exceptional and sociable behaviour.

The partnership with parents is very professional and successfully impacts on the high quality of child care offered by the childminder. Parents have access to a fully comprehensive handbook containing an extensive range of information, policies and procedures. This also includes a thorough complaints and compliments section with contact information for both Ofsted and National Childminding Association. Parents are fully included in children's activities and participation in play. Children gain great motivation in performing plays and acts for parents and the childminder alike. Children are openly encouraged to share experiences with their parents when they are collected. The childminder ensures that she obtains full written consent from parents regarding all aspects of care; such as transportation, photographs and emergency treatment.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a childminder who has relevant checks in place to allow unsupervised access to children. The childminder occasionally uses an assistant. The assistant does not at present have relevant checks and consent has not been gained from parents to allow the assistant to have unsupervised access to the children. The childminder has up to date first aid certificates and has completed an NVQ level three in childcare.

Children's attendance is recorded accurately each day and records of past attendance are kept in each child's folder. The childminder is very committed to ongoing training to constantly improve the quality of care for children. Children are very settled, confident and happy in the childminder's care due to the familiar routine, organisation and activities provided for the children.

Children's recorded details and documentation is kept very secure, safe and confidential. The childminder is very aware of who can have access to children's details.

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 was given two recommendations to improve child care.

The childminder did not retain children's details and records for the statutory length of time. The childminder now keeps all current and past children's details in separate folders, locked away for confidentiality. These are kept for a minimum of seven years in line with National standards.

The childminder had limited resources to promote positive images for children of today's society. The children now have access to a wealth of resources promoting positive images; such as books, posters and craft and art materials. They also celebrate each other's identity very positively through monthly topics of countries of their origin. This includes cooking, dressing up and stories.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that requires 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):

- gain consent from parents for assistant to have unsupervised access to children

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