

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	402857
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Angela Jackson

<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 1992. She lives with her partner in Dalston in the London borough of Hackney. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house and the first floor toilet, are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five all day. The childminder attends local carer and toddler groups and childminders' support groups.

She is a member of an approved childminding network.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted by the childminder's sound understanding that physical play and exercise in the fresh air helps develop strong bodies and control and coordination of their bodies. Children are taken to parks where they run around and play ball and climb and swing

on the large scale equipment. There are further opportunities for developing physical skills at drop-in groups and at 'Zoomaround' where there are different levels of climbing equipment, hoops and a ball pool.

When children are unwell, parents are asked to collect them and care for them in their own homes and children do not return until symptoms are over. This helps to prevent cross infection in children. The childminder has some understanding of the correct procedures for administration of medicines but does not always obtain prior written consent from parents. Children are therefore put at risk as there is no assurance that parent's instructions are followed. This is a breach of regulations. There are reasonable arrangements in place to treat children in the event of accident or injury and the childminder has consent from parents to seek the advice of doctors in an emergency.

Nappy changing routines are satisfactory with sound regard for hygiene. The childminder wears gloves and wipes the changing mat with anti bacterial spray to minimise the risk of cross contamination to children. Children are learning how to keep themselves healthy by understanding that they clean their hands before eating and by following the personal hygiene routines they see role modelled by the childminder.

Parents provide most food for children ensuring their dietary and personal preferences, are taken into account. The childminder makes appropriate arrangements for the safe storage of the foods, such as in the fridge, and heats it as necessary, in the microwave. Children benefit from the childminder's awareness of the dangers of inadequately cooked, or reheated, food. The food that is provided from home is supplemented, and nutritionally balanced, by the childminder giving snacks of fruit such as oranges and sultanas, and regular drinks of very diluted squash or juice. Children's cups are refilled constantly and put on a table for children to access throughout the day. This prevents dehydration and helps children become aware of their needs and to become independent.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children generally settle in fairly quickly and are happy in the care of the childminder. The childminder works with parents to arrange a gradual introduction to being left so that children feel secure. The home is comfortable and warm and children make choices from the toys that are put out each day and also from the wide range of resources stored in the large cupboard in the hall. When buying toys and equipment, the childminder ensures they are safe and suitable for children as she checks for safety symbols, that they are made by a reputable manufacturer and are age appropriate. She understands the dangers posed to young children from toys that have small parts or that are not stable and routinely checks toys and equipment that is put out at toddler groups to ensure they are in good condition.

The childminder has satisfactory understanding of her responsibility to keep children from contact with unsuitable adults. She supervises them constantly and checks the identification documents of all visitors to the house. Adequate steps have been taken to minimise the risks to children in the house and garden. For example, there are smoke alarms on each floor, a fire blanket in the kitchen and a stair gate. There is a fire plan and the effectiveness of this has been tested by the childminder practising an emergency evacuation of the house. There is sufficient space to allow children to move freely around the ground floor areas within sight or sound of the childminder. Low level kitchen cupboards are mainly free from harmful substances or equipment although there are bottles of wine stored in a cupboard that has no lock and is

accessible by children. The garden is fully fenced and has a shed that is kept locked. There is a high level bolt missing from the gate and a length of cable stretched across one corner to stabilise a piece of fencing. The childminder reduces the risk these present by never leaving children alone when they are playing out in the garden.

Children are safeguarded by the childminder's understanding of child protection issues. She recognises signs that might indicate different types of abuse and knows how and when to refer concerns, either to the parents or to the relevant agencies. She records incidents and has a fair understanding of what to do in the event an allegation was made against herself or a member of the household.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities within the home and at a variety of drop-in groups they attend on a daily basis. They mix with many children within their age groups helping them to develop good social skills. As members of a group, or individually, they have access to music making sessions where they make sounds on xylophones, tambourines and drums. Messy and creative activities such as painting, sand and water help children express themselves and to explore different media. At home, using the 'Megasketcher', children draw pictures of themselves and others and discuss family likenesses in their features and emotions such as smiling. This helps children to get a good sense of self and to understand how faces reveal feelings and how we react to those feelings. The childminder reads and looks at books with children helping them to extend their vocabulary as they copy and repeat words that are new and that represent images in the books.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing with a wide range of toys and by participating in activities that promote understanding of diversity, including disability. There is no gender stereotyping with boys and girls having access to toys such as prams, dolls, cars, trains and construction sets. Each child's individuality is taken into account along with parental preferences. Children celebrate festivals from around the world and a variety of faiths. They prepare traditional foods like Chinese pancake rolls and couscous and make clay candle holders for Eid. Books and stories such as 'Myself, my senses', and small world play people in wheelchairs or on crutches, help children learn about the needs of others and about themselves.

The childminder uses positive strategies such as praise and encouragement to encourage children to feel valued. She has clear expectations and boundaries that she shares with parents and she works with parents to ensure consistency. This helps children feel secure and develops confidence in themselves and what they do. Parents are fully informed about the provision and are given copies of the policies at registration. Letters of recommendation from parents describe the childminder as 'highly experienced and competent' demonstrating their appreciation for the level of care offered.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Most documentation is available and completed correctly although the certificate of registration that is on display is an old one. Parents have access to the current certificate as it is available in the policies folder they go through at registration. However, it is a requirement of registration that, during the hours of operation, the correct registration certificate is displayed. Space and resources are organised so that children have suitable areas for play, rest and meals. Registers of attendance are completed with times of arrival and departure recorded. The childminder has sound understanding of her responsibility to ensure all household members are vetted and to notify Ofsted of significant events and changes. She attends one or two training courses each year to ensure her provision is in line with current recommendations and initiatives in childcare. Documentation is stored with satisfactory regard for confidentiality. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection, the childminder has attended a variety of training courses to extend her knowledge and understanding of current childcare practice. She has devised policies that include behaviour management and equal opportunities. Parents are asked to provide details about children's allergies, medical conditions and individual preferences to ensure children receive the appropriate level of care to meet their needs.

## **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 prior written consent from parents before administering medication
- improve knowledge of what to do in the event of an allegation being made against self or other member of the household
- carry out full risk assessment of the garden and kitchen and make safe for 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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)