

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	133285
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Lorraine Sparey
<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 a registered childminder since 1996. She lives with her husband and 11 year old son. They live in a three bedroom fourth floor flat in the heart of Islington. The main areas used for minding are the living room, designated play room and the kitchen for eating meals.

A maximum of four children may attend at any one time and there are currently two children on roll.

The childminder regularly attends a local toddler group. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Islington Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from healthy and nutritious meals and snacks. They enjoy a wide variety of fresh and dried fruits such as apricots, apple, banana and pear. At lunchtimes the childminder

provides home-cooked meals such as lasagne, shepherd's pie and vegetables. On occasions as a treat children enjoy going to the local cafe for toast. Children are kept well hydrated because the childminder regularly reminds them to have a drink and their cups are kept within reach. Children's home routines with regard to eating and sleeping are closely followed to ensure consistent care.

Children enjoy good opportunities to develop their physical skills and exercise in the fresh air. The childminder walks to structured groups in the area and uses the soft play centre to develop children's large muscle control.

Effective nappy changing procedures ensure that children are comfortable throughout the day. Separate changing mats are used for each child to minimise cross infection. Children follow good hygiene practices, such as, washing their hands before food and after using the toilet. The childminder implements suitable procedures to support children's health and welfare. They are protected in the event of requiring emergency treatment because the childminder has recently completed a first aid course and has an appropriate first aid kit.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well maintained and welcoming environment. They freely and safely move between the various play areas. The childminder has all the required safety equipment in place, such as, socket covers and locks on some doors to promote children's safety. However, some furniture in the play areas does not promote children's safety. For example, the legs on the coffee tables pose a hazard to less mobile children. A designated playroom provides children with opportunities to safely choose from the wide range of quality toys available. With younger children the childminder provides support in choosing activities. Effective procedures, such as practising the fire drill on a regular basis supports children's safety particularly as the premises are on the fourth floor. Children are beginning to take responsibility for their own safety. They help tidy away the toys that they have finished playing with. The childminder explains that some toys are not appropriate when the baby arrives and she suggests playing with them later.

The childminder demonstrates through discussion a good awareness of safeguarding children. She has attended training and is in the process of updating to include recent changes. The childminder is clear on possible signs and symptoms of abuse and effective procedures to follow if concerned about a child. This helps prevent children from suffering from harm or neglect.

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

The provision is good.

Children confidently come into the setting and quickly become involved in their play. They are developing good relationships with their peers and the childminder. Children enjoy participating in a wide range of activities, such as, singing songs and joining in the actions, building with mega blocks and role-play. Children use a wide range of resources including dressing up clothes, and bags to develop their own ideas. The childminder extends their play by suggesting their dolly is poorly and needs to go to the hospital. They enjoy experimenting with the doctors set listening to the dolls chest, looking in her ears and pretending to give her some medicine. Children benefit from the positive interaction from the childminder. She spends all her time playing and talking with the children to increase their language and development. The childminder has flexible plans to ensure that children's individual interests are included.

Children benefit from a range of activities and play opportunities in the community. In the summer they attend a toddler group in the local park and enjoy visits to a local farm where they join in the carol service. Children's physical skills develop as they use the soft play area crawling, jumping and sliding on the equipment.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met because the childminder implements effective procedures. She spends time talking with the parents and detailed child record forms ensure that she has sufficient information on their likes and routines. The childminder clearly knows the children well and is able to provide play opportunities tailored to their individual interests. Children's awareness of the wider world is well promoted through the childminder providing a good range of puzzles, play people, dolls and books that provide positive images of our diverse society. Children are well behaved given their age and stage of development. They respond well to the childminder's consistent use of praise. A child automatically says 'Good girl' when she has finished building the blocks. The childminder smiles, acknowledging 'You are a good girl'. Children generally show consideration to each other. A child immediately says 'sorry' when they accidentally step on another child.

Children benefit from the positive relationships developed between the childminder and their parents. There are good procedures to ensure the information is shared on a regular basis and parents feel able to spend time with the childminder and their child either at the beginning or the end of the session. Parents state how much their children enjoy coming to the childminder and they are really pleased with the care their children receive.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. The childminder is committed to training and increasing her skills through workshops. For example, attending a workshop on The Birth to three matters framework. This has helped her in providing a wide range of play opportunities for young children. Children are well supported in their play and learning because the childminder is well organised in her routines. Children's food is prepared in advance to ensure that she does not spend all her time preparing and cooking for the children. Generally the space and resources are used effectively to support children's choices in their play. However, some furniture in the living room does not fully support children's safety.

The childminder has all the required documentation which is well organised and stored appropriately. Records such as registers are clear and written agreements with parents are reviewed to ensure that parents are happy with the arrangements.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that toys are organised to enable children to freely access a wide range to support their play. The childminder has a designated play room where children can freely select from low-level drawers and plastic storage boxes. With very young children the childminder ensures that she provides a good range to support children in their play.

## **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 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):

- review the furniture used in the play areas to ensure children's safety

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)