

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	136885
<b>Inspection date</b>	03 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Elizabeth Ellen Mackey

<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 registered in 1993. She lives with her adult son in a house situated in a residential area of Bromley. The home is accessible to local parks, shops, library, and schools.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes which includes a separate playroom with adjoining toilet facilities. An upstairs bedroom is used for sleeping provision and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is first aid qualified and holds a Level 3 qualification in childcare.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean, comfortable home that is organised effectively to meet their needs. Very good standards of hygiene are maintained throughout the home and equipment is clean and in good condition. Children are encouraged to develop good personal hygiene routines and they can independently use the washroom and wash their hands effectively.

Children's medical needs are discussed with parents and detailed up-to-date records are maintained to ensure children's health is protected through consistency of care, this benefits the children's well-being. Agreements are made regarding the care of children, including their daily routines. There is a clear system in place for documenting accidents and concise records are maintained, which are acknowledged by parents. The childminder has good systems in place in the event of an emergency and written consent from parents to seek emergency medical treatment. Medication records are maintained and parents consent for the childminder to administer medication is written, however, a record is not maintained of when the last dose of medication was administered and this is recommended to provide a historical record of medication.

Children enjoy healthy meals and regular drinks throughout the day; these are provided by parents. Children enjoy the benefits of outdoor play. The childminder makes good use of her garden and provides excellent opportunities for children to develop their physical skills. An outing to a toddler group, library or place of interest is planned daily.

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

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into comfortable and well organised home. Ongoing risk assessments of the premises and the garden by the childminder minimises the risks for children. Children have access to resources and equipment that are safe and appropriate. They are organised to ensure children can access them with ease. In addition to the childminder checking resources, the children also know if they find any broken resources they must bring them to her to dispose of. The garden has secure boundaries and the measures in place to protect children from hazards, for example, the pond area has been sectioned off to prevent children's access. However, there is a large water butt without a secure lid fitting, which could pose a potential hazard, therefore, a recommendation is made to increase the safety in the garden.

There are house rules in place to provide boundaries for the children and for them to learn how to keep themselves safe. The childminder practises road safety with the children to build their confidence; she records their awareness to measure how their understanding of road safety is developing.

Policies and procedures underpin the childminders practice to keep children safe. A commitment to safeguarding children is evident because the childminder implements a child protection policy that is shared with parents and keeps her knowledge updated through attending child protection training. The childminder is experienced in caring for young children and she is fully aware of her responsibility to protect them.

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

The provision is good.

Children are confident, sociable and demonstrate a sense of belonging in the childminder's home. They are focussed on the activities available and share a good relationship with the childminder. Children are enthusiastic and welcome the childminders input as she sits on the floor with them, effectively supporting their learning and play. The childminder naturally extends children's learning through asking open questions and giving them opportunities to contribute, for example, when a child chooses a book for the childminder to read he is encouraged to talk about the events in the book and ask questions.

The childminder knows the children very well and is aware of their ability and needs. She maintains a record their of achievements, their artwork and photographs which together provide a good picture of the children's progress. A child proudly shares the photographs, recalling events from outings and activities he has enjoyed, recognising that some of them were when he was much younger. This gives children a sense of belonging. Children experience a warm, consistent standard of care from the childminder who is committed to meeting their needs.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are welcomed and enjoy a family atmosphere where the childminder values and respects their individuality. Children behave well and gain in confidence, because the organisation of the setting and resources enables them to have autonomy and clear boundaries help them to feel secure.

The childminder is highly committed to meeting children's individual needs and works closely with parents and other agencies when relevant, to identify how best they can be met. The childminder has attended specific training to enable her to provide care for children's individual needs. She has experience of caring for children with additional needs and her dedicated and caring approach benefits all the children she cares for. Children gain understanding of society through the provision of a very meaningful range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world, for example, 'small world' play people representing a range of disabilities and appropriate books and play resources which represent cultural diversity. The childminder has also attended training to develop further how she can promote diversity through every day play.

Children benefit from the childminder's highly conscientious approach to working in partnership with their parents, underpinned by written agreements. She provides them with detailed information about her service including a prospectus, policies and previous reports. Children benefit from a consistent approach to their care through the provision of daily information about them, which is in written form for children under one and verbally for other children. Complimentary letters in the childminders portfolio indicate that they are very satisfied with the care given to their children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by a suitably qualified and experienced childminder. The childminder keeps her practice up-to-date by attending training and in addition to first aid training and other relevant courses she has successfully completed a Level 3 qualification in childcare.

Records and documents are well organised and used to support the care of the children and to comply with regulations. A recommendation is made improve the detail recorded in medication records. Policies and procedures are well thought out and are shared with parents. Agreements are used to identify children's individual needs. The childminder has a complaints procedure for parents and has made available a complaint log.

The childminder organises her home to provide a safe stimulating environment. A recommendation is made to minimise potential risks in the garden. Outings to local facilities ensure minded children socialise with other adults and children in a safe environment.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of the children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to increase the range of resources to depict positive images of people with a disability. The childminder has increased resources to provide a wide range of resources which increases children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others.

### **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 information obtained for administration of medication is comprehensive and provides a historical record
- minimise risks to the children when using the garden (water butt)

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)