

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY244719
<b>Inspection date</b>	25 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Cheryl Langley
<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 2003. She lives with her husband and their two adult children and 14 year old child. They live in a house in Leytonstone. The whole of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The childminder has some pet goldfish. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding one child at irregular times on a short notice basis. At the time of the inspection there were no children present.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

From discussion the childminder is able to show that she has a good understanding of healthy eating, including the need to have drinking water accessible at all times. Activities are planned to encourage the children's interest, knowledge and understanding of food. For example, they cook food or help prepare fruit for snack. The childminder takes account of the wishes of

parents and works with them closely to provide nutritious snacks and meals that appeal to the children as well as meeting their dietary needs.

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of how children's health is promoted. She has systems in place to gather information from parents regarding medical needs, dietary requirements and allergies. Most of the required documents and procedures are in place to enable her to act in the children's best interests if they require medical attention. However, she has not requested parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment and advice. The childminder describes how children would learn about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and personal hygiene through their normal daily routines, discussion, books and role play. For example, they wash their hands at appropriate times to prevent the spread of germs and pretend to be nurses or doctors caring for others.

Children have the opportunity to use a range of equipment and take part in activities which contribute to their health and physical development. The childminder organises outings and makes use of her garden so that children can go out into the fresh air. Children are able to practise balancing and co-ordinating their bodies to draw, thread, operate programmable toys and use tools and utensils. Larger equipment is available in the garden or used in the near-by parks, such as sit-on rides and climbing apparatus.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has taken action to ensure that risks both inside and outside of her home have been minimised, so that children can play safely. For example, all rooms have high locks to supervise the children's access, hazardous items are placed out of reach and smoke alarms are checked regularly. An emergency escape plan has been devised and practised so that they know what to do in the event of a fire. The childminder has attended training to carry out risk assessments to keep the children safe. Most of the documents and procedures are in place to support the children's safety. However, public liability insurance has not been maintained.

The childminder explains how she helps children to learn about their own safety through their routine and discussion. For example, they practise crossing the road only when the green man indicates that it is safe, they talk about using the emergency services and taking care if they have to approach strangers.

The childminder is able to show that she has a good understanding of child protection issues to safeguard the children's welfare. She has the required documentation to support her should she have any concerns about a child in her care and has attended training in this area which she keeps up-to-date.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder talks about encouraging children to acquire knowledge and skills. She uses a range of books to promote communication and language by reading stories to the children and asking them questions about what they can see and their experiences. Simple songs and rhymes are repeated to reinforce language or aid counting. Games are used to help the children link sounds to letters or express their views and ideas. They can use a range of art and craft materials or imaginary play toys to express themselves creatively. The impact of these on the children's development is not clear as there are no records of what children can do.

Play resources are organised in a manner which helps to promote children's free choice. They are sufficient in quality and made easily accessible. The childminder is aware of appropriate strategies to promote the children's confidence and self-esteem. She says that she praises and compliments the children for their achievements and gives them responsibilities to aid their independence. The childminder has ideas and resources to motivate and interest the children. Some of the organised activities offered to children include cooking, ice skating, horse riding and swimming.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a range of resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and respect for others. She also organises activities to increase the children's awareness of diversity. For example, she has books and dolls that portray positive images of difference and uses food tasting or art and craft activities to celebrate festivals and different cultures such as Diwali or Christmas. The childminder is able to show that she has a sound knowledge of behaviour management, giving good examples of how she would approach a variety of situations for children of different ages.

The childminder has experience of caring for children with learning and or physical disabilities. She is able to demonstrate how provision is made to make sure all children can take part in the play and activities on offer and be included in the life of the setting. Systems are in place to communicate effectively with parents to support the children's care. Information is gathered at the outset to help the childminder meet the children's individual needs, such as their likes and dislikes or health and routine requirements. The parents and childminder exchange information regularly to make sure the children receive consistency in their care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

From discussions with the childminder and the records available she is able to demonstrate that she is generally well organised. Space and equipment is prepared so that children can access resources easily and independently enabling them to make choices about their play. A balance of child-led and planned activities are offered to the children so that they may have a range of different enjoyable experiences. Routines are developed in partnership with parents so that the children can feel secure and relaxed. This is because steps are taken to ensure they can play, eat and rest as they need to.

Most of the required documentation is in place to support the childminder's practice. However, the current organisation of the registration records and daily attendance register means that this information is not always readily accessible. Children benefit from the childminder's knowledge and experience which she continues to update with relevant training. She has a Diploma in Childminding Practice and a current first aid qualification. Overall, evidence suggests that the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children. The childminder has a current first aid certificate. This is to ensure that the children receive appropriate first aid treatment when required and their health is not put at risk.

## 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):

- make sure written parental permission is requested, at the time of the placement, to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future
- maintain current public liability insurance
- make sure records that are kept relating to the activities as a childminder are available for inspection by Ofsted at any time and easily accessible, this refers to the children registration documents and the record of attendance.

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)