

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	402855
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 December 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Vivienne Rose
<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 2001. She lives with her husband and two children aged 10 and 15 years. They live in a house in Hackney Wick in the London borough of Hackney. The whole of the ground floor and one bedroom and the bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding four children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The family have a cat.

The childminder, shares the running of a local drop-in group and also attends other drop-in groups, parks, toy and book libraries, on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn the importance of good hygiene. They play in a well organised clean environment. Procedures such as sterilising changing mats and disposing of nappies appropriately support the children's good health and well-being. The childminder holds an appropriate first aid certificate and is aware of what to do should an accident occur. Written parental permission is requested to administer medication and for emergency treatment. However; at present there are no systems in place to record accidents or medication should this be required. This does not fully support children's welfare.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. They are offered drinks throughout the day and enjoy varied, well presented and nutritious home cooked meals and snacks. Plenty of fresh fruit is offered throughout the day. These snacks comply with special dietary requirements to ensure that children remain healthy. Children are able to rest and sleep according to their needs. There are regular opportunities for children to take part in more active play when they use the garden and attend drop-in groups, and the park. This supports their physical needs well.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised because the childminder recognises risks and rectifies them. For example; she is aware that younger children may put small toys in their mouth and supervised them appropriately to ensure their safety. The childminder selects appropriate toys for the children's age and stage of development and makes them easily accessible. Children have plenty of choice as the resources are varied stimulating and of good quality. The environment is warm, friendly and child orientated. The display of attractive posters and children's art work and the use of low-level furniture help children to feel secure. The childminder holds their work in high regard for example, the display of the 'Christmas Tree of hands' helps them to know that their work is valued.

Children are generally well protected as the childminder has a sound understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse. She has attended child protection training to develop her knowledge and awareness of the procedures to follow should she have concerns about a child in her care. She has a written child protection policy which is shared with parents. However; at present records are not maintained of incidents which occur outside of the childminder's home to fully safeguard the welfare of children.

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

The provision is good.

Children show a strong sense of belonging. The childminder has a good relationship with the children who are settled and happy. Children access a wide variety of resources which are suitable for their age and stage of development. They access a treasure basket for example, which contains interesting items to stimulate sensory play such as, chains, spiky balls and wooden spoons this encourages good interaction and language development. Children enjoy repeating the sounds of the cars with the childminder when she says 'look at the cars they go 'bib bib bib' and counting objects one, two, three, this helps children to have fun and to make connections in their play. Children attend local groups with the childminder to support their

social skills and development. Older children enjoy creative activities using waste materials to express their feelings such as making a Christmas tree of hands which gives them a strong sense of achievement. Children have the opportunity to play music, sing rhymes, to role play and take part in movement games. These activities support their physical development and imagination well. The close relationship developed by the childminder and the daily story time helps children to feel secure and supports their well-being.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children behave well and benefit from being treated with respect and with equal concern by the childminder. The partnership with parents is sound. Parents provide relevant information about their children to the childminder. This helps to ensure that children receive individual care and attention. There is a clear complaints policy which is available to parents. However, there is no methodology as yet in place to record any concerns which may be raised by parents. The childminder has experience of working with children with additional needs and understands the need to work with professionals and others to support the children in her care. Children are beginning to use simple sign language skills. The childminder sometimes uses Makaton signing with them as a form of alternative communication to help them develop a sense of the needs of others. Children independently choose from a range of resources that are easily accessible. Resources contain a wide variety of positive images in books puzzles and creative play activities help to promote children's awareness and understanding. The childminder displays attractive posters of world families for example, a poster which displays families around the world.

Children behave well. There is a behaviour policy in place and children are praised consistently when they achieve. This supports their sense of well-being. The childminder shares information with parents daily on children routines and activities to help them to feel involved in their child's day.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a well organised environment where they receive good support from the childminder to help them to feel secure and confident. The childminder attends training whenever she can this ensures that she is able to provide appropriate care for the children she looks after.

Information retained about the children is relevant and regular informal discussions with parents ensure continuity of care for the children. Most mandatory records are in place, confidential and well maintained. However, although parents are provided with the details of the procedure to follow if they have a complaint there is no methodology in place to record concerns. There is no methodology to record incidents or accidents this does not fully safeguard children's welfare. The childminder demonstrated that she is aware that she must gain approval for any variation to her registered numbers and the amount of children she may care for. However, she did not seek confirmation of this, as a result this is a breach of regulations. The childminder is operating in breach of her registration conditions because the certificate of registration is not displayed for parents to inspect. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection the provider agreed to develop a written emergency plan. An emergency plan has now been devised and children take part in a regular fire evacuation practice. The ensures that the children become familiar with the process.

### **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):

- ensure that the numbers of children attending do not exceed the conditions of registration; display the certificate of registration

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)