

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | EY274468         |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 26 February 2008 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Heather Allen    |
| <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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged four and seven in a house in a quiet residential area in Ilford, Essex. The house is within walking distance of local shops and parks.

All areas of the property are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of four children aged under eight years and currently has one child on roll. She is not registered for overnight care. The family have no pets.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health is promoted well. The childminder has a very good understanding about the importance of following good hygiene practices and reinforces this with all the children in her

care. Children know that they wash their hands before mealtimes and immediately go to the sink to wash when it is time to eat. Children have excellent facilities for both rest and play. The childminder has beds and travel cots upstairs where children can rest, and each child has their own bedding in order to prevent the risk of cross-contamination. She has a clear understanding of how to protect children from illness and infection. She discusses her child care practice with parents and also gives them a copy of her sick child policy and medication policy so they all work together to ensure the best care for children in the event of illness. Children are well protected in the event of illness or an accident because her medication and accident records are extremely well maintained and she has all appropriate parental consent forms in place.

The childminder takes great care to ensure that children's health and welfare is prioritised and works closely with parents to ensure that their diet complies with religious and dietary requirements. Children are provided with a wide range of healthy and nutritious food and clearly enjoy meal times. They jump up and down in excitement before lunch and wait enthusiastically for their food, waving their hands up and down in anticipation. Children learn independence as they feed themselves with spaghetti and mince. The childminder sits nearby to socialise and give them support when required.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a stimulating and welcoming environment. There is ample room for children to explore and develop, with separate rooms for quiet times, messy play and eating and there are sleeping facilities upstairs. Children enjoy an extensive range of play equipment and activities suitable for their age and stage of development. The childminder ensures that all equipment is in excellent condition and regularly checked.

The childminder is vigilant in her supervision of the children and is always on hand to ensure their safety and to give support when required. She makes sure that children are never left alone with an adult who has not been vetted. Children are kept safe because the house and garden are secure. They learn about safety because the childminder explains to them why they need to be careful. She takes excellent steps to protect children in the event of a fire. She has a written emergency evacuation plan in place and all children have a practise fire drill within a month of them starting with the childminder.

Children are well protected because the childminder has a very clear understanding of child protection procedures and what to do if she should have any concerns about the children in her care. She has a copy of the local child protection guidance and has a written child protection policy which is shared and given to parents.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive in a stimulating environment where there are ample opportunities to enjoy a wide range of activities and play equipment. The childminder encourages and supports children in their play and provides an innovative range of craft activities so that children can use their imagination and create their own pictures and works of art. Children transform potatoes into colourful people with hair and clothes. They create collages out of natural objects such as fir branches. Children's skills are recognised and they gain self-esteem because parents write comments such as 'Lovely work' on their pictures.

Younger children are extremely well supported in their play. The childminder is constantly at hand to teach them new skills and help them develop in all areas of learning. They learn about colours and use fine motor skills as they play with the play dough. They jump up and down in excitement as they receive praise and encouragement from the childminder.

Children benefit from an exciting range of indoor and outdoor activities because the childminder is very well organised. She draws up plans for weekly routines with different daily activities designed to stimulate both older and younger children. Children are happy and have great fun when they are taken on outings, such as to the local fun fair, and play on the bouncy castle and have their faces painted. They have regular opportunities to play outside in the garden, where there is ample room for them to run around and play with the outdoor equipment.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive because they are respected as individuals and the childminder takes great care to meet their individual needs. She works closely with parents to learn about children's religious and cultural backgrounds, so that she can create an environment where children have a positive self image. Children's own language is respected and encouraged. The childminder has a list of familiar words in their own language, with the English equivalent next to it, so that she is able to communicate effectively with children and they feel at home.

Children develop excellent self-esteem and confidence because the childminder takes great care to cater for their individual needs and gives them plenty of praise and individual attention. Children clap their hands and say 'well done' when they complete an activity, because the childminder gives them continuous praise and encouragement as they learn new skills. Children learn to behave well and treat toys and other people with consideration. The childminder explains to young children why they should not throw teddies around. She encourages them to say 'sorry' and kiss teddy better. Children learn to respect their environment and enthusiastically tidy up the teddies before lunch. They take pride in earning stickers when they have been particularly helpful.

Parents are extremely happy with the care their children receive. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure that they are well informed about her childcare practice and that their children receive high quality care in line with parental wishes. All parents are given copies of her policies and procedures, including sick child and behaviour management policies, as well as a copy of the Ofsted complaints poster to keep at home. She has all appropriate parental consents in place, as well as parental consent to make observations of children. She shares these observations with parents and also keeps daily diaries for young children, so that parents are closely involved in the care of their children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from high quality care because the childminder is exceptionally well organised and pays great attention to their individual needs. Children play in a bright, colourful and child-friendly environment where all areas are organised effectively to allow them plenty of space to move around and enjoy their play. They are well supported because the childminder has low child to adult ratios and gives them plenty of individual attention. Children are happy and thrive in the childminder's care.

The childminder has an excellent knowledge of the National Standards and regularly updates her training, including attending a behaviour management course, Birth to three matters workshop and Working with Disabled Children conference, so that she can provide the best possible care for children. She has excellent documentation in place to support her childminding practice, including comprehensive records for the children in her care. She works closely with parents and provides each parent with a comments book for their children which they take home daily, so that they can add any comments or requests for the care of their children. Parents comment 'I have been completely satisfied with her excellent standards in all aspects of caring for my children'. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection in 2004 the childminder was asked to complete an appropriate training course in first aid for infants and young children. Children are now protected in the event of an accident because the childminder completed appropriate first aid training in 2007.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since 1 April 2004 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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)