

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	401741
<b>Inspection date</b>	11 July 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Jeannette Waring

<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 registered since 2001. She is registered to provide care for a maximum of three children under eight years at any one time, and she is currently providing care for one child.

The childminder lives with her adult son and three teenage daughters in a four-bedroom, three-storey house on the Plumstead/Woolwich Common borders. Local schools, pre-schools, shops, parks and bus routes are all close by. Children use the lower two floors of the house for their play-space and there is an enclosed back garden available for outside play. The family do not have any pets.

The childminder is a member of the Children Come First Childminding Network and she holds a level 3 NVQ in Early Years Care and Education.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well organised home. The childminder has thorough cleaning routines in place which make sure that all areas used by children are maintained in a hygienic condition. Children learn about the importance of good personal hygiene as they wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating.

The childminder ensures that her first aid training is kept up to date, keeps a fully stocked first aid box as well as a small first aid kit for outings, and maintains a clear record of all accidents. In addition, the childminder has a clear policy relating to the administration of medication and the care of sick children, including exclusion periods for children who have infectious illnesses, and she routinely shares records relating to accidents and medication with parents. These measures protect children from the risk of infection, ensure they are well cared for in the event of illness or an accident, and help to promote good continuity of care.

The childminder ensures that she always discusses children's individual dietary requirements with parents. She is happy to provide meals, or to serve meals that parents provide. She demonstrates a good understanding of the importance of providing healthy and well balanced meals and snacks for children, and she ensures that children are well hydrated by encouraging children to drink plenty of water throughout the day.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for in a comfortable home environment where the childminder has carried out a careful risk assessment to make sure that they are safe and secure. Children develop confidence and independence as they take themselves to the toilet, or go into the hallway to choose from the range of toys which are attractively presented in the under-stairs area. A further selection of toys and craft materials are provided in the living room. There is a small garden for outdoor play, however, one of the fence panels is broken so the garden is not fully secure.

Children are protected from harm and neglect because the childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibility to keep children safe and refer any concerns to the local Children's Services. However, her written Safeguarding Policy does not make this clear.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed in the childminder's care. The childminder sits with children at play and encourages them, praising their efforts, for example, as they enjoy a colouring activity. Children are able to choose activities for themselves and during the visit they enjoyed drawing and playing with a selection of cars.

The childminder plans the day around children's needs. She plans time for children to be active and provides quiet times when they can rest and relax, for example, children often enjoy story time with her after lunch. Children are allowed to watch a little television but the childminder limits this to approximately 30 minutes each day. Children are taken out and about in the local

area, they visit childminder drop-in groups regularly and, during the school holidays, they enjoy swimming and outings with the childminding network.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder spends time talking to parents about the family background, including their culture, religion and home language, so that she gains a good understanding of how to care for each child according to their individual needs. Children learn to value and respect difference as they play with a small range of books and toys which reflect the wider community. Children with disabilities and/or learning difficulties are welcomed by the childminder who has completed a number of training sessions on working with children who have additional needs.

Children are very well behaved, they are polite, friendly and well mannered. The childminder sets clear rules and boundaries for children so that they know what is expected of them and she gently reminds children to be polite. A written behaviour management policy is shared with parents which helps to ensure consistency of care.

Good arrangements are in place to promote effective partnerships with parents. National Childminding Association contracts and consent forms are used to underpin all arrangements and the childminder uses a contact book to highlight any specific issues with parents. Time is spent on a regular basis chatting to parents about their children's care needs and child records are routinely shared with parents.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She makes sure that children are safe and secure and has good arrangements in place to promote children's health and well-being. Children are protected from unvetted people and are always under the childminder's direct supervision. The childminder has ensured that her home and daily routines are organised around the needs of the children in her care. She makes sure that all the required documentation is in place, up to date and readily accessible, and she has a good understanding of the requirements of the National Standards and associated regulations.

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

Since the last inspection the childminder has taken steps to improve the safety and well-being of children by making sure that all records are suitably stored and readily accessible and by keeping a detailed register of the days and hours of attendance for all children. In addition, she has increased the range of play activities on offer to children.

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

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints 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):

- make sure that the garden is safe and secure
- make sure that, where a written child protection policy is in place, it complies with the requirements of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedure

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)