

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	118724
<b>Inspection date</b>	04 July 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Caroline Preston

<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 1996. She lives with her husband and two adult children in Hornchurch in the London borough of Havering. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding one child under five all day and two children over five before and after school. The family has a pet dog and an aviary of birds.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have many good opportunities to develop their large physical skills. They visit the park daily, where they use the large climbing apparatus and swings, and enjoy the fresh air and exercise. Children always have access to the garden, as the doors are open which lead outside, and there is sufficient shade to allow the children to play when the weather is hot. Children are offered healthy meals, including spaghetti Bolognese, fish fingers, salads, fruit and a range of filled sandwiches. The childminder is aware that some children may have special dietary

requirements. Children learn about hygiene as they confidently ask for support to use the toilet and wash their hands afterwards. The environment is clean and well maintained. The pet dog is bathed and wormed regularly and her food is inaccessible to children. This supports the care and well-being of children.

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

The provision is good.

Good steps have been taken to protect children and keep them safe. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues. She is aware of the four different types of abuse and the possible signs and symptoms children may show. She is aware of the need to record concerns and inform the relevant agencies. Steps have been taken to ensure the house and garden are safe for children. Working smoke alarms have been installed on each level of the house and a fire blanket is available in the kitchen. Children discuss road safety with the childminder. They have access to play resources that are appropriate to their age and stage of development, including books, games, stickle bricks, creative play resources, paint, water and sand. The environment is clean and well maintained. Children have access to sufficient play space to support their play and development.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed as they play with the wet sand on a hot summer's day in the garden. The childminder ensures children are in the shade and protected from the sun. Children mould the sand into different shapes, showing good motor, construction and pattern making skills. The childminder interacts well with children, praising and encouraging them. She sits with the children, listens to them, and asks relevant questions to extend their learning. Children are offered a good range of activities, appropriate for their age and stage of development, that support their learning. A current photo album shows the various activities and play experiences children have. These include Halloween parties, cooking activities, trips to the park and forest, dressing up, role play and children's first day at school. Children can also look through the album and discuss their achievements.

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

The provision is good.

Children learn about diversity by celebrating a range of appropriate festivals, including St George's Day, Christmas, Easter and Halloween. By including festivals children have celebrated at school, the childminder continues children's learning. Children also have access to play resources, such as dolls, puzzles and books, that reflect other cultures and abilities. There are sound systems in place to support children with learning difficulties. Children behave well and appropriate strategies are used to ensure children understand right from wrong. These include discussions and explanation for older children and distraction for younger children. The partnership with parents is good. Information is exchanged daily to ensure children's needs are met. All parental contracts and relevant contact details are in place. Parents discuss their children's progress with the childminder. Photographs show what activities the children have taken part in. However, there is no written information available to parents about the childminding service.

## Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder offers children a safe and secure learning environment, where they have sufficient space and play resources to use throughout the day. The daily routines ensure children's needs are met, including rest and mealtimes. The childminder ensures she meets all required ratios. All adults living on the premises have undergone suitability checks. The daily attendance register is up-to-date and available for inspection. The certificate of registration is displayed, current public liability is maintained and the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. All other relevant documentation is in place, up-to-date, confidential and secure. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to update her first aid training. She now holds a current first aid certificate, which supports children's health and well-being.

## 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):

- develop an introductory leaflet about the childminding service.

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)