

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** EY355236  
**Inspection date** 12 June 2008  
**Inspector** Vivienne Rose

**Type of inspection** Childcare  
**Type of care** 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 was registered in 2007. She lives with her husband and daughter aged four years. They live in a first floor flat in Bethnal Green in the London borough of Tower Hamlets. The whole of the childminder's home apart from the main bedroom and her daughters' bedroom is used for childminding. Children have access to a playroom and living room for messy play. There is no access to a garden for outside play; however, children are taken on walks to local parks on a daily basis.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of two children at any one time and is currently minding three children on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of a local childminder support group and jointly runs a local toy library. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The family have a dog.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are kept healthy as a result of the childminder maintaining a clean environment for their care and ensuring that they develop good hygiene habits. Each child has their own towel, provided by the childminder, which is available in the bathroom. They are keen to wash and dry their hands and the childminder gives them gentle reminders to wash their hands after using the toilet and before meals. The childminder has a nappy changing mat to allow the children to be changed comfortably which is sterilised after each use to prevent cross infection. Children's health is further promoted because there is a separate area for the dog to sleep and to eat.

Children enjoy a healthy varied diet as the childminder provides a menu which contains fresh vegetables and fruit each day. Prepared meals are stored appropriately to maintain their freshness. The childminder recognises dietary and medical needs and appropriate respect is given to children who may only eat Halal meat, for example. Children enjoy sitting together at lunchtime eating their tuna sandwiches and fresh fruit which includes blackberries, strawberries and kiwi.

Children get plenty of fresh air and exercise when they visit the park on regular basis, and they move around freely in the home. Babies and toddlers sleep comfortably according to their needs and parents wishes.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure and suitable premises. The childminder's home is maintained well and is very child friendly, for example, furniture is in place so that children can access resources and sit down at the small table and chairs provided. The layout of the home enables children to be supervised easily and all the necessary safety equipment is in place, including safety gates, smoke detectors and radiator covers. The childminder carries out regular emergency evacuation practice with the children to encourage them to learn about the process. Children freely select from a range of good quality toys and resources that are suitable for their age and stage of development and it is maintained well. Children are encouraged to think about keeping themselves safe through gentle prompting by the childminder to sit properly and to move objects from the floor and tidy them away. When out in the community children are supported to learn how to safely cross the road, to look both ways and to listen before crossing. Children are further safeguarded because the childminder has a first aid certificate and has a sound understanding of child protection issues and procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled with the childminder and have good relationships with her and her family. The children relate well to each other and enjoy playing with the Lego, puzzles and role play resources. Children are able to access toys and play materials that meet their interests because the childminder knows them well. They enjoy stories, sitting quietly with the childminder whilst they listen. For example, one child enjoys the 'Shark in the Park' book joining in and taking part in the story line. Children have opportunities to socialise when they visit local groups

with childminder as part of their time spent with her. The childminder plans her week's activities which are flexible. She is beginning to use a long term planning system and to observe children's progress and development. Daily diaries are used for the younger children and observation sheets for older children, identifying significant skills. However, the childminder is yet to fully implement this as she is building up her confidence in this area. These are shared with parents to provide continuity of care. She provides messy play activities such as printing and painting which encourages children's creativity and imagination. Children are supported to develop their language skills well through the childminder prompting them with new words, and sometimes signing is used. She extends children's language and they laugh and have fun together, for example, when the child talks about Hercules being strong she asks is 'Hercules tiggly?'

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their needs are well met because, for example, in the case of younger children their daily routines are discussed with parents and followed. When the children first attend the childminder gathers information to care for them appropriately. Children behave well as a result of knowing what the childminder expects of them, such as good manners and caring for others. The childminder uses 'Golden Rules' to guide her practice, for example, to be kind to others. Activities such as outings in the local community, celebrating birthdays and learning to greet each other in the children's home language helps children to have strong sense of identity and good self-esteem. They learn about differing cultures and how to respect all members of society through having access to a variety of resources that promote positive images of all. These include puzzles, books, play people and dressing up clothes.

The good partnership between parents and the childminder benefits the children. Children are placed with the childminder after the parents have a clear understanding of the service the childminder provides, through talking to her and getting useful written information. Parents talk with the childminder daily and younger children receive written comments in a daily diary. Thank you letters and comments made by parents in the comments book show how much parents value the childminder. There is a clear procedure in place for recording complaints.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder has attended all then necessary training and is pro-active in accessing further information and guidance to help improve the quality of her provision. Children are 'at home' and feel secure in the well organised environment with regular routines. They get individual attention as a result of the childminder having a good awareness of the demands of looking after a mixed age group of children. The required records and documentation to support the care of the children is in place and stored and organised effectively. The childminder records the attendance of children in their daily diaries and a register, however, these methods are to be revised to provide consistency. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

Not applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration 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 a consistency in the methods used to record the children's arrival and departure times.

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)