



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	102095
<b>Inspection date</b>	29 November 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Marcia Robinson

<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 1999. She lives with her 8 year old son in a two bedroom, second floor flat in the London Borough of Camden. The property is close to local amenities and London transport links.

The whole of the flat is used for childminding, except the main bedroom. There is a communal garden and play ground within the housing estate available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one

time. She currently has two children aged under five years on roll.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The family have one cat and two gerbils. The childminder is a social smoker and therefore never smokes within the home or when caring for minded children.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a clean and well maintained home. Children are learning about the importance of good personal hygiene as they are encouraged to wash their hands before mealtimes and after playing outside and going to the toilet. Good cleaning and hygiene routines practised by the childminder ensures that children's health is not at risk from contamination and cross infection. Children have good opportunities for physical exercise as they go on daily walks from the local parent and toddler group. They also enjoy playing in the communal garden and local parks with a variety of outdoor apparatus.

Children enjoy nutritious, balanced meals of fresh fish, pasta dishes, potatoes and fresh vegetables. They are offered healthy snacks of fruit, cucumber and carrot sticks which are sometimes prepared by the childminder. The childminder uses fresh ingredients and has a good understanding of healthy eating for under fives. Children help themselves to water from their cups and babies from their bottles. The childminder also offers a choice of water or milk at mealtimes and regularly offers drinks to younger children who have not yet developed self help skills. This ensures children do not become thirsty and dehydrated.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a spacious home where all risks have been identified and minimised to ensure children's safety at all times. Written parental consent for taking children on outings is required. Children can independently select what they want to play with from the selection of resources available. The range of play materials, including the provision of resources that reflect positive images are varied, well balanced and suitable for the numbers and ages of children registered for.

Children's welfare is well protected as the childminder has a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse. She is aware of what to do if she is concerned that a child is being abused but she does not currently have the local guidance and contact numbers to ensure there is no delay in reporting any concerns to the appropriate agency.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder organises daily outings to local parent and toddler groups and to places which children find interesting, such as a farm, where they can see and learn about animals and nature. At the parent and toddler groups, the childminder ensures that the children participate in various activities and experiences that are stimulating and balanced well.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how children learn and develop through planned and practical everyday activities. She effectively interacts and extends children's vocabulary and their use of language through lots of open-ended questions that make children think.

The children have good opportunities to enjoy a variety of accessible and educational activities and playing materials organised and planned by the childminder. At home, they paint, draw, play with dough, read stories, sing, play roles and participate in imaginative activities.

A flexible daily routine, adapted by the childminder, takes account of the children's individual needs, thus making them feel happy and secure.

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

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to learn about the world they live in and about other people's beliefs. Their understanding of the wider world is extended by regular outings to groups, where children can mix with children of differing race and join in with religious and cultural celebrations. The childminder values and respects children as individuals and follows their daily routines as agreed with parents. She has obtained the necessary information from parents about children's cultural, religious and dietary needs so that children's individual needs are being met.

Although the childminder has limited experience of caring for children with special needs she demonstrates a positive attitude towards inclusion. Children's behaviour is managed effectively and according to their ages and stage of development. Children are well behaved and are beginning to learn right from wrong. This is due to the childminder's clear boundaries and a range of strategies she discusses and agrees with parents to ensure consistency.

Children are developing confidence and self esteem because the childminder is interested in them and gives them lots of praise and encouragement. Children's daily activities and development are discussed with parents on a daily basis. The childminder verbally communicates with parents at the beginning and end of the day in order to ensure continuity of care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Children's security is safeguarded by the childminder who remains suitably qualified to care for children. The childminder keeps up to date with her child care knowledge. She is currently studying the Developing Childminding Practice course (DCP) and is interested in attending future training on the Birth to three matters framework to benefit the children.

Space and resources are sufficient and organised well to allow children independence and choice. Children benefit from a well-organised environment because the childminder organises a flexible daily routine and children receive good support for their care and learning needs. Parents are given daily verbal reports on their children's well being and progress which helps to ensure continuity of care.

The children's care and welfare is generally well supported by all records required for their safe management being in place and maintained well. However, few written policies and procedures are in place. This does not therefore, ensure that the childminder has clear guidance in her daily practice with children and parents.

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

The childminder has taken action to obtain the Area Child Protection Procedures and had completed an appropriate first aid course but it has since expired, therefore this action has been raised as a recommendation at this inspection.

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

There are no complaints to report.

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 more written information about the childminding service.
- obtain written parental consent for taking children out and using public transport

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)