



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	156477
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 January 2006
<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 satisfactory. 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 1996. She lives with her husband, adult son and daughter. They live in a 3 bedroom property in the Hampstead area of the London Borough of Camden.

The living/dining room areas are used for childminding purposes. A fully enclosed garden is available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children under eight of whom 3 may be under five years. She is currently minding two children under five

years.

The childminder attends local parent and toddler groups. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and tidy environment because the childminder maintains good levels of hygiene throughout her home. Children are developing an awareness of the importance of washing their hands after using the toilet and before and after meals. They are protected from unnecessary illness and they are generally well cared for in emergency situations as the childminder has thorough procedures in place for accidents. She ensures that her first aid box is well stocked. However, she is required to update her first aid training so that children's health care needs are promoted at all times and not placed at risk.

Children enjoy eating healthy and nutritious balanced meals and snacks of fresh fruit, such as bananas, and rice cakes. The childminder provides the children with a selection of cereals and toast for breakfast and cheese sandwiches for lunch. She encourages children to try a range of meals and snacks that are balanced and nutritious. For instance she uses a flavoured red pepper and tomato brown bread to ensure children receive a varied diet that meets their growing needs. Children have access to drinking water at all times throughout the day which ensures that they do not become thirsty or dehydrated.

Children's physical development is sufficiently encouraged. They enjoy daily fresh air and exercise when they walk to and from nursery. The childminder allows the children to play outside in the garden and she takes them to local parks where they have access to a selection of outdoor play equipment so they can develop their physical skills.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has adapted her home well to ensure children have sufficient space to move around easily and play comfortably with toys. Children's care needs are met well by the childminder who uses a good and well designed range of furniture and equipment. For example, younger children are provided with good quality and appropriate equipment, such as a travel cot and bouncy chairs, which ensures children are able to sleep and eat comfortably. The children are able to independently select toys and equipment from low level storage containers, which means that they have good opportunities to make choices for themselves.

Children are well protected by the safety equipment the childminder has in place, such as stair gates, window locks and key operated plug socket covers. The

childminder has identified and eliminated most areas of risks both indoors & outside in the garden, although she has not effectively removed all risks by ensuring that low level glass windows in the living room are inaccessible to children. Children's safety is further promoted by the use of appropriate fire safety equipment in place, such as smoke alarms and a fire blanket. The childminder has an evacuation plan that she practises with the children on a regular basis to increase their awareness of how to keep themselves safe.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted reasonably well by the childminder who is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and of the appropriate action to take for reporting concerns. The childminder was unsure if she had a copy of the local area child protection procedures. She is unclear of the procedures to take if an allegation of abuse is made against her or a member of her family.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a variety of home and community based activities. The childminder has a good knowledge of local facilities and children are regularly taken to local parks, shops and drop-in groups. Children are developing their vocabulary skills because the childminder encourages them to make decisions for themselves and introduces them to new words during free play activities.

Children enjoy opportunities to dance and sing with the childminder. For example, on the day of inspection children confidently sang familiar nursery rhymes as they played on the floor with their toys. Children engage in pretend play, singing, dancing, painting, drawing, play dough and other similar creative activities with the childminder whilst they are at home.

Children receive generally good opportunities to learn and develop because the childminder ensures that activities are varied and take account of children's interests and individual needs. Children are confident, settled and responsive. They are seen to be secure in their environment because the childminder's approach is of a warm and caring nature. Currently the childminder does not have the Birth to Three matters pack.

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

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to value and respect differences and similarities about themselves and the wider community, for example the childminder made paper lanterns with the children when celebrating Chinese new year. The childminder ensures that children's individual needs are well met and that children are learning to have positive attitudes through the provision of a wide range of toys and books that reflect positive images of our society. Children attending with special needs are progressing well because the childminder works closely with parents and provides appropriate support to the child to meet their individual needs.

Children receive recognition for their achievements, for example, they are praised and encouraged after they sing along to familiar nursery rhymes and say 'Thank you' when they are offered their snack. They are generally well behaved and are encouraged to have consideration for others. For example, the childminder intervened in a calm but firm manner to the few incidents that occurred where the children were squabbling over sharing their toys.

Children benefit from positive relationships with the childminder and their parents because the childminder operates a gradual settling in programme to establish a good working relationship. The children are happy and content because parents share information about their child's individual needs, interests and experiences with the childminder. Children's routines, developmental progress and activities are shared verbally with parents through daily chats.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

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

The childminder has a sufficient understanding of the National Standards for Childminding and interprets them generally well. For example, she initiated suitability checks for her children who have reached 16 years old. Children's welfare, care and developmental needs are met well by the childminder. She has a sound knowledge and understanding of caring for young children but has not sought to update her first aid training.

Children have sufficient space and receive individual support from the childminder to ensure they are happy and secure in the childminder's well organised home. Although the childminder has not undertaken any recent child care training she is keen to ensure that her knowledge and understanding of childcare issues is kept up to date to benefit the children. She is interested in completing Birth to Three Matters training in order to further enhance the outcomes for babies and young children.

All required documentation is in place, kept up to date and is stored and organised well. Written agreements between the childminder and parents are in place, which ensures that they both understand each other's expectations. The childminder has built up sound working relationships with parents, although she recognises how more written information about the service provided and of their child's progress and development would enhance the service she provides to children and their parents.

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

Not applicable.

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

There are no complaints to report.

The childminder 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 satisfactory. 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):

- update the first aid certificate by completing an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children.
- ensure low level glass panes are safe or inaccessible.
- develop a full understanding of child protection issues, including procedures to follow in the event that allegations of abuse are made against yourself or family members.
- develop more written information about the service provided and of children's progress and achievements that are shared with the parents.

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