

Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 147816          |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 02 August 2007  |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Caren Carpenter |

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| <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 was registered in 1981. She lives with her adult son in a first floor three bedroom flat which, is located within the London borough of Harrow. The childminder uses the lounge and two bedrooms for childminding. There is a communal garden which the childminder uses frequently. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding six children under eight years. All children attend on a part time basis. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties. The childminder collects children from local schools. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is well supported by the childminder who has a secure knowledge of the importance of health and hygiene routines. Children learn good hygiene practices and are developing self-care skills, as they are encouraged to wash their hands before meal times.

They are protected from unnecessary illness and are well cared for in emergency situations as the childminder has thorough procedures in place for accidents. Children are protected from unnecessary illness as they do not attend if they are infectious or unwell.

Children enjoy healthy nutritious meals and snacks which, are provided to meet their dietary requirements. They are provided with hot meals such as, potatoes, chicken, vegetables, yogurt and a variety of fresh fruits. Children are offered regular drinks of water and freshly prepared fruit juices.

Children enjoy fresh air everyday, which promotes a healthy lifestyle. Regular outings to parks and toddler groups where they can play on large outdoor equipment provide children with greater opportunities to promote their overall physical development.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is welcoming for children, they are able to feel relaxed and at home as space has been organised to meet their individual needs. For example, they eat rest and play comfortably.

Children make choices in safe and secure surroundings. Potential risks have been identified and minimised to prevent accident, because the childminder has very good understanding of how to keep children safe. She has developed sound fire evacuation procedures, which children are familiar with.

Suitable furniture, a good range of equipment and resources create a safe and stimulating environment. Toys and resources are well organised and stored at low levels. This encourages children's interest, enticing them to play.

Children are protected from harm because; the childminder has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and the correct procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content as the childminder knows the children well and meets their individual needs effectively. They have lots of fun and play enthusiastically with a good range of toys and resources, which fully promote their learning. Children participate in a range of activities, such as completing simple puzzles, play dough, games, drawing and colouring.

Children develop their vocabulary skills as the childminder asks questions and encourages conversation. This helps them make sense of the world. They are developing good hand eye coordination as they practise their early writing skills when drawing and painting. Children's mathematical skills are developed as they enjoy counting, recognising colours and shapes. They are developing good self-help skills, as they choose their own toys and resources independently.

Children are taken to weekly parents and toddler groups and the library. This improves their social skills and confidence. Children are making good progress in all areas of their development as the childminder has a very good understanding of how children learn and develop through play.

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

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to learn about other people, as the childminder raises their awareness of cultures and differences and varying needs. They are developing a positive image of themselves, their family and the wider community as they have equal access to all toys and activities.

Children with learning disabilities are very well supported by the childminder's understanding and awareness. She works very well with parents and professional agencies to ensure she provides appropriate care to the children.

Children are well behaved as the childminder provides consistent boundaries and offers lots of praise and encourage when they do something well. The childminder has developed a clear behaviour management policy, which is discussed and agreed with parents.

She shares daily information with parents about their children's routine, individual needs, interests, developmental progress and experiences.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare, care and development needs are met well, as the childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of caring for young children. The organisation of space and resources enables children to move around freely as they choose toys, play and rest comfortably. They are happy, confident and feel at home, as they receive lots of individual attention to promote their well-being.

The childminder is committed to improving her practice to benefit the children and regularly attends training to enhance her skills and knowledge. Children's overall care, learning and welfare are enhanced by the information shared between parents and the childminder.

All required documentation, policies and procedures are in place to support the operation of the setting. However, some lack the necessary details therefore, children are not fully protected. 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 required to ensure that the complaints procedure includes Ofsted contact details. Parents are fully aware of the procedure to follow if they have concerns. The complaint procedure is on display and includes Ofsted contact details. The childminder was required to review garden play for children over eight years with their parents and to complete a first aid course. Children play safely in the communal garden with parents' permission. Children are well cared for during emergency, because the childminder has a current first aid certificate.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection there has 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):

- ensure that children's dietary needs are clearly recorded.

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)