

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 161238  
**Inspection date** 31 July 2007  
**Inspector** Susan Linda Capon

**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 the London Borough of Bromley in 2001. She lives with her husband and adult child in a house situated in the London Borough of Bromley. The ground floor and upstairs family bathroom are used for childminding. There is a secure garden available for outdoor play.

The family has one cat and tropical fish.

The childminder is registered to care for three children under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding one child on a part-time basis.

The childminder regularly uses the local amenities including the parks and library.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is good.

Children spend their day in a clean organised home. They are free from infection through the childminder's sound hygiene routines. For example, she uses anti-bacterial spray for all work surfaces and the children's high chair. She uses good hand-washing routines for nappy changing preventing the spread of infection. The family pets do not pose a health risk to the children. The cat is healthy, immunised and all food and drink is inaccessible to the children.

Children are developing their understanding of the importance of cleaning their hands before eating. They clean their hands and face after their meal using an anti-bacterial wipe, throwing it away in the covered bin after use.

Sound accident and medication procedures protect the children at all times. The childminder makes a written record, sharing this with the parents. The childminder has a first aid qualification. She keeps her first aid kit suitably replenished for use in an emergency. Parents give written consent for the childminder to seek emergency treatment if required.

Parents are fully aware they should not send their child to the setting if they have an infectious or contagious illness to help prevent the spread of infection. The childminder has sound procedures for managing a child who becomes unwell in her care, contacting parents to arrange an early collection if necessary. This protects any other minded children in her care.

Children are developing an understanding of the importance of keeping healthy. They enjoy physical exercise on a regular basis, using the childminder's garden or at local parks or activity centres. The children enjoy practising their climbing, jumping and sliding skills, using the large play apparatus. Younger children particularly enjoy pedalling a bike. Parents give written consent for their children to use the apparatus in the parks and the childminder ensures these are suitable and safe for the children.

Children enjoy healthy, nutritious, home-made meals. The childminder ensures fresh fruit and vegetables are readily available both at meal times and for snacks. Children enjoy a biscuit as a special treat. Individual dietary needs are always considered and the childminder knows the children's favourite foods. For example, one child enjoys a banana after lunch.

Some children enjoy healthy, nutritious meals provided by their parents. The childminder is aware of the importance of ensuring this food is safely, stored, re-heated and served appropriately. She takes care to ensure the food is at a safe temperature for the child to eat whilst cooking it thoroughly to prevent infection and cross-contamination.

Children use appropriate utensils and beakers relevant to their age and stage of development. Younger children demonstrate good self-help skills as they feed themselves at lunch-time. They are strapped into a high chair, close to the main dining table, enabling them to be social with other children attending.

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a very warm, welcoming, child friendly home. It is in good decorative order throughout. The premises are bright, light and airy. The children have ample space to move

around freely, enabling them to explore their boundaries in safety. Suitable areas are available for children to play, rest, sleep, eat, participate in "messy" activities and play outdoors regularly.

Children access a good range of suitable toys relevant to their individual age and stage of development. They are well-organised and freely available, enabling them to make their own choice and selection throughout the day. Everything is clean and safe and covers all areas of children's developmental stages. All the household furnishings are safe and suitable for minded children to use.

Children under two years old use suitable equipment to meet their developmental needs. For example, a high chair to eat and travel cot to sleep. Everything is well-maintained and in good, clean order.

The childminder has identified the majority of potential risks in her home and garden. She has taken suitable steps to minimise these to prevent the children having accidents. For example, a stair gate prevents children accessing the kitchen unsupervised and all cleaning materials are inaccessible to the children. The patio doors have butterfly transfers attached to enable children to recognise when the doors are open or closed. The plastic bags stored in the dining room pose a potential risk to the children's safety.

Children are safe in an emergency as the childminder has good fire safety equipment in place. For example, there are working smoke alarms on both floors and a fire blanket is secured in the kitchen. Children practice the emergency procedures with the childminder, helping them to learn how to keep themselves safe.

Children are safe when out and about with the childminder away from the premises. They use appropriate car seats when seated in the childminder's vehicle. Parents give the childminder their written consent to go on outings and use public transport or her own vehicle.. Younger children use a buggy when they are close to busy roads and are learning about the dangers of traffic.

Children are protected through the sound knowledge and understanding of how to manage child protection issues appropriately. The childminder has the relevant information for seeking help and advice if she is concerned about a child in her care. Parents see her policy and procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and her family members, helping them to feel at home and part of the family. Younger children particularly enjoy a cuddle. They interact well with the childminder as they play.

The childminder rotates her toys and equipment on a regular basis to ensure children play in a stimulating environment. She organises regular additional activities outside the home to keep the children interested, extending their opportunities to develop their social skills. For example, the children enjoy socialising with children of a similar age at the local parent and toddler group or when visiting other childminders.

The children are developing good independence skills and confidence as they freely select their own choice of toy, choose when to take a drink and feed themselves at mealtimes. Younger

children enjoy using the star chart to help them develop and progress. For example, as the learn to use a potty or help to tidy away the toys. They enjoy receiving stickers as a reward.

Children are progressing and developing well as they play with the toys and equipment ably supported by the childminder. They recognise a range of different mathematical shapes, including a circle and square. Younger children have particularly good language skills as the childminder engages them in conversation throughout the day. They enjoy looking at books and are able to recognise and name the pictures. For example, different animals including a lion, zebra and camel. They know they use a bucket and spade to make sandcastles. The children enjoy attending the local bounce and rhyme sessions, particularly enjoying singing 'wind the bobbin up', using the appropriate actions.

Children are developing their imagination as they draw and make models with the play dough. They mimic home life as they make the childminder an imaginary cup of tea and cook them a meal. Children enjoy exploring the different equipment especially the sounds book.

The children are developing an understanding of right and wrong and know they should not throw the toys. They are encouraged to share the toys with other children, co-operate and take turns.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder treats the children as individuals. She ensures individual rest and sleep routines are incorporated into her day to provide continuity of care. The childminder encourages children to learn about other people and the world about them through the toys and activities readily available. Children have additional opportunities to develop their awareness of their local community through the additional activities undertaken outside the home.

Children with disabilities are welcome in the setting. The childminder gathers detailed information from the parents to ensure she provides suitable care for the child as required. She works together with the parent and any other professional providing continuity of care. The childminder attends additional training opportunities to extend her knowledge and understanding of specific needs, helping her to provide the appropriate care and attention for a child.

The children behave well. They know the rules of the setting. The childminder uses suitable strategies, age and stage appropriate to enable the children to understand the importance of co-operating with one another and sharing the toys and equipment. She promotes good behaviour through regular praise and encouragement, building the children's self-esteem and developing their confidence.

The children benefit from the good relationship the childminder develops with their parents. Parents are very pleased with the care she provides for their child. They find the childminders flexible approach helpful, particularly when they require additional hours at short notice.

The childminder implements the written contracts held with each parent. She regularly reviews these to ensure information is up to date and correct. The childminder verbally discusses each child's day with their parents, keeping them fully informed of their child's progress and development.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are safe and secure in the childminder's environment. Family members are suitable and the childminder never leaves the children with un-vetted persons, keeping them safe and secure at all times.

The experienced childminder has provided childcare for over 30 years. She has worked in a variety of London Boroughs. She is dedicated to her role and enjoys being with the children. The childminder demonstrates a professional approach to her job and attends additional training opportunities when possible. She incorporates the Birth to three matters framework into her daily activities, providing good care for children under three years old.

The childminder ensures she always maintains her registration at all times. She keeps her numbers low, enabling her to provide quality one to one care for the children attending.

The childminder maintains a daily register, incorporating the child's individual arrival and departure times. This ensures the safety of the children at all times.

The childminder has a well-organised port folio of information readily available to parents. This includes her policies and procedures, details of training and qualifications and photographs of previous and current children. Her detailed records ensure parents are informed of their child's daily care, development and progress. All her records are suitably stored to maintain confidentiality.

The childminder keeps abreast of changes to the National Standards. For example, she displays her certificate and has implemented a complaints policy and procedure as required.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The childminder was required to obtain the relevant contact numbers for managing child protection issues. These are now part of her port folio and are readily available for seeking help and advice if she is concerned about a child in her care. This ensures the safety of the children attending the setting.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action 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 all plastic bags are inaccessible to children

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)