

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	122927
<b>Inspection date</b>	19 February 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Linda Close
<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 1992. She lives with her husband and 1 of her adult children in a semi-detached house located on a residential road in the Southfields area of southwest London. The local authority is Wandsworth.

The ground floor of the home is used for childminding. This includes a living room which is open plan to encompass a dining area and a kitchen. Children have the use of a downstairs shower and toilet. They can sleep in a cot in the living room at the front of the house but they do not use this room for any other reason. Children do not use the garden at the rear of the house. The childminder is a fluent speaker of Urdu, Punjabi and English. At the time of this inspection there were 2 children present aged 19 months and 5 years. There are 3 children on roll in total, 1 is aged 19 months and 2 children are 5 years old. The childminder is registered to mind 4 children under 8 years, 3 of these may be under 5 years and 1 of these may be under 1 year at any one time.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into a clean home environment where very good standards of hygiene are maintained. The childminder has kept her first aid knowledge up to date by attending relevant training which helps her to care for children appropriately if they have an accident. Children learn about good personal hygiene from the childminder who supervises them closely when they wash their hands before eating and she explains why this is a good idea at the same time. Parents know that they must not bring their children to the childminder if they are unwell which helps to prevent the unnecessary spread of infection.

The childminder prepares tasty home cooked meals for the children at the request of parents. Meals are varied and they include healthy choices which meet children's dietary needs. The children feed themselves and they thoroughly enjoy their food. They are introduced to new tastes including mildly flavoured Biriani and Chapati with parents approval. The childminder ensures that children's food does not contain too much spice, salt, fat or sugar which shows that she is aware of healthy eating. Some children have food that is provided by their parents. Snacks of fresh fruit are provided by the childminder and the children have drinks of fresh water to hand throughout the day.

Children take healthy exercise on a regular basis. They walk to the local library and various toddler groups where they benefit from energetic games and activities with other children.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a secure home environment where they cannot leave the house unnoticed and strangers cannot enter unobserved. The home is maintained at a pleasant temperature and it is well lit with electric lights and ample natural lighting. Children have more than enough space to play, eat and rest in comfort. Children have easy access to a suitable range of toys and resources that suit their age and stage of development.

Children are safe in the indoor play and sleep areas of the home because the childminder makes daily checks and she minimises risks. She ensures that children cannot access household medication, sharp utensils, cleaning materials or cosmetics in either the bathroom or the kitchen because she makes these items inaccessible to them. A gate prevents children from accessing the staircase and electric socket covers are in place to keep children safe. Children are protected from the risk of fire because an evacuation plan has been devised, a fire blanket is kept ready for use in the kitchen and smoke alarms are in place. The childminder has assessed risks to children in her outdoor play area at the rear of the house. Risks that she has identified include the poor condition of parts of the perimeter fencing, hard ground under the swings and a potential drop from one level of the garden to another. At present the outdoor area is not used by the children.

Children are safeguarded in relation to child protection issues because the childminder is well informed. She has undertaken personal study of relevant documents so that she knows what signs or symptoms suggest ill-treatment. She is aware of the appropriate steps to take if she has concerns for the welfare of the children in her care.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and very relaxed in the childminder's home. They are greeted with smiles and affectionate cuddles and they clearly enjoy a very good relationship with the childminder. They are quick to remove their coats when they arrive and they hurry into their play area to choose something to play with which demonstrates a clear sense of belonging and self-confidence.

Children take great pleasure in drawing and making marks and they smile happily when the childminder praises them. They search through a large selection of crayons to find their favourite colours and the childminder says each colour name out loud. She works very hard to encourage children to say their first words. She speaks clearly and slowly and the children show that they understand her by their actions. Children chat with the childminder over their meals. The talk about their food and they tell her their news and they enjoy the social aspect of mealtimes.

Children play with toys that include a telephone and musical books which they find very interesting. They show their curiosity when they find battery operated toys and explore what happens when they press the buttons. They laugh and copy the clip clogging sounds that the rocking horse makes when they are rocking to and fro. Frequent outings to coffee mornings and local toddler groups help children to develop their social skills and learn about the wider world. They also look forward to their regular trips to the library where they choose books to bring home and share. Children's progress is noted by the childminder who shares her thoughts with parents so that the adults can work together to help the children move forward in their learning.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are well known to the childminder. She finds out about allergies, special dietary needs, religious beliefs and other important matters at the time of registration so that she can work with parents and care for the children as they wish. Children learn about the diverse people and customs in our community through their toys, books and multi-cultural activities which include wearing authentic traditional dress. They also learn to accept and respect different people through frequent outings and activities with other children. Children's special health issues are carefully noted by the childminder who ensures that she is well informed about how to care for them. She has no recent experience of caring for a child with learning difficulties. However, she works well with parents and is happy to take advice and guidance from professionals when there is a need.

Children's behaviour is managed well by the childminder who provides a pleasant calm atmosphere in her home. She is very patient and she treats each child with kindness and respect. Children respond very well to her gentle guidance. They are easily distracted if they get into mischief. The children enjoy a varied range of activities and outings which helps to keep them busy and contented.

The childminder has established good working relationships with parents. She tells them all about her service at the time of registration when the contract is discussed in detail and agreements are reached. Parents are cordially invited into the childminder's home when they bring the children each day. At this time any current health issues or dietary needs are shared which supports continuity of care for the children. Parents are also invited to share the

childminder's observations of the children's progress. Parents give their written permission for outings and activities and they can see the childminder's registration certificate on display.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures that children are kept safe from non-vetted persons by being vigilant when the children are in her care. Registers and records show that the childminder works within the constraints of her registration at all times. She has attended appropriate training to keep her knowledge of first aid for children up to date. The childminder rises early every day to do household tasks before the children arrive. In this way she makes sure that she is free to devote her attention to the children during the day. Toys and resources are well organised so that children can access them easily. The childminder's plans her time so that the children enjoy an interesting range of outings and play opportunities.

The childminder maintains her records of attendance and other appropriate documents in good order which promotes the safe and efficient running of her childminding service. Records are kept ready for inspection at any time. The childminder has not shared her garden improvement plans with Ofsted and Ofsted contact details are not made available to parents which does not meet requirements. 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 agreed to keep written records of any medication administered to children and to seek written consent from parents to seek emergency medical treatment or advice. The childminder has a suitable book to hand to record the administration of any medication and she has asked parents for their permission in writing so that she can seek emergency medical treatment or advice for the children if there is a need which helps to keep them safe.

The childminder also agreed to up date her first aid training, increase her knowledge of child protection issues, keep her attendance registers up to date and to provide a wider range of toys and resources for the children some of which reflect diversity. The childminder keeps up to date records of children's attendance. She has attended first aid training and she has increased her knowledge of child protection issues through personal study. Her work helps to keep children safe while they are in her care. She has increased her range of toys and resources and has suitable toys and books that reflect diversity. The childminder was asked to provide evidence of car insurance for business use. The childminder no longer uses her car for transporting children on a regular basis. However, she has the appropriate insurance in place should it be required.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required either the childminder or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. The childminder is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents that 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 Ofsted is kept informed about significant events
- provide parents with contact details for Ofsted should they wish to make a complaint.

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)