

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	138957
Inspection date	03/04/2009
Inspector	Samantha Hunt
Type of setting	Childminder

Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

Description of the childminding

The childminder registered in 1993. She is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She lives with her husband and two adult children in North Hayes, Middlesex. The childminder uses the whole of the ground floor and the first floor bathroom for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have one cat, a lizard and various fish.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time. She is currently caring for nine children, three of which are in the early years age group. All are cared for on a full or part-time basis. She takes children to local parks and toddler groups. The childminder walks to local schools, nurseries and pre-schools to take and collect children.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall, the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Children play happily together and clearly enjoy the childminder's company. The childminder provides a flexible routine of activities that include daily outings and child-initiated play. Clear partnerships are formed with parents to ensure that children's individual needs are noted and respected. The childminder has taken time to reflect and evaluate her provision and has scope to improve outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the early years provision the registered person should:

- continue to develop knowledge and understanding of early learning goals and share children's developmental records with parents to ensure children's learning is promoted effectively.
- obtain a copy of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures
- obtain written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment and to take children on outings
- review current written risk assessment records to ensure they are clearly dated

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has sound policies and procedures in place to support children's safety and well-being. All regulatory documentation is in place and regularly maintained. The childminder records all accidents to children and ensures that parents are informed when they collect their children. The childminder acknowledges the benefit of self-evaluation and has begun to evaluate her practice to identify strengths and weaknesses. For example, the childminder has highlighted that she needs to develop her knowledge of the Early Years Foundation

Stage framework (EYFS) and build on partnerships with parents. She keeps up-to-date with current practice through meeting with other childminders and attending some training.

The childminder shares written policies and procedures such as behaviour management and how to make a complaint with parents. She liaises verbally with parents on a daily basis, giving them feedback about how their child has been and activities or experiences they have taken part in. There are clear systems in place to record information with parents prior to children starting, such as parents contact details and medical or dietary needs. However, the childminder does not currently hold written parental consent to seek emergency treatment or to take children out on any outings such as the school or nursery walk.

The childminder shows a clear understanding of how she ensures children remain safe while in her care. She carries out daily visual checks of her home prior to children arriving and has completed a written risk assessment that includes places outside the home she visits with the children. However, these risk assessments have not been dated to aid the childminder in knowing when to review them. The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of safeguarding children and the signs and symptoms to alert her if she has a concern about a child. While the childminder is clear about whom to contact to report such concerns, she does not hold the current Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures to support and guide her.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder organises her home effectively to ensure children have sufficient space to play freely. The children clearly enjoy their time with the childminder and are confident to make their needs known, for example asking to go to the toilet or for a different toy to be got out. Children giggle with excitement as they crawl into the tent set up for them in the garden and then proceed to play peek a boo through the opening with one another. The childminder supports children as they play, asking them questions about the puzzle they are completing, getting them to identify colours or count objects. The childminder shows a sound understanding of the EYFS and has begun to observe and record children's progress towards the early learning goals to help support their learning. However, she has yet to share these observational records with their parents.

Children develop a good understanding of health and hygiene through discussions and practise with the childminder. They are easily able to access drinks when they are thirsty and dry their hands using paper towels to minimise the risk of infection. Children know they need to wear their coats when playing in the garden and gentle reminders from the childminder ensure this always happens. Most children have snacks and meals provided by the childminder, who ensures children have a balance of freshly prepared meals that include fresh fruit and vegetables. Mealtimes are a sociable occasion with children sitting at the table and engaging in conversation with one another as they eat their lunch.

Children become aware of their own safety as the childminder involves them in

practising the emergency evacuation procedure. Gentle reminders from the childminder not to run and to hold onto the rail as they go upstairs help to reinforce their awareness. The childminder ensures that children are closely supervised and are not able to leave the premises unattended.

Children have regular opportunities to become aware of the wider community as they go on visits to toddler groups and meet up with other minded children. Children behave well, sharing toys and resources with one another. The childminder uses effective behaviour management techniques to deal with any inappropriate behaviour and sets children clear boundaries about how they should behave. She gives positive praise and encouragement to the children as they play which helps build their self-esteem. Children happily assist in tidying away toys and are clearly forming close relationships with the childminder.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

Overall effectiveness

How effective is the provision in meeting the needs of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	3
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	3

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	3
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	3
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	2
How well are children safeguarded?	3

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	3
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
How well are children helped to stay safe?	3
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	2
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:

Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- implement a written statement of procedures to be followed when safeguarding children and share these with parents (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children)

30/04/2009

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- take action as specified above (Arrangements for Safeguarding Children)

30/04/2009