

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	124828
Inspection date	28/11/2008
Inspector	Pamela Patricia Paisley

Type of setting	Childminder
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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 report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration whichever is the later, which require Ofsted or the provider to take action in Annex C.

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 was registered in 1994. She is registered on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder lives with her husband and two adult children in West Croydon within the London borough of Croydon. The whole ground floor and one bedroom on the first floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding. The family has a cat. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one child in the early years age group.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder provides an inclusive and welcoming environment where children are making good progress in their learning and development. Children's individual needs are met well and there are effective links with parents to help involve them in their children's care and education. Plans for the future are well targeted to bring about further improvement to the service the childminder provides and the outcomes for children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- improve the range of programmable toys and equipment to support children's learning
- ensure an accurate record is kept of children's attendance

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder provides a well organised environment where children receive good support to help them feel confident and secure. Resources are accessible, which encourages children to initiate their own activities and develop increasing independence. The childminder has comprehensive policies and procedures in place which are shared with parents. Since her last inspection the childminder has made improvements to her record keeping ensuring that all parents' written permission is in place. Most records are well maintained but an accurate record of children's attendance is not always kept. The childminder carries out daily risk assessments and appropriate safety devices are fitted throughout her home to ensure children's safety at all times. There is a good partnership with parents who receive detailed information about their children's achievements and progress. The childminder regularly asks parents for feedback and suggestions and provides flexible support to parents who have varying work patterns. The childminder has begun to evaluate the service she provides and intends to attend training to enhance her knowledge and skills.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder uses her good knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage to provide a wide range of stimulating activities that incorporate all areas of learning and meets children's individual needs. Children have good opportunities to find out about their environment as they go on outings to transport museums, seaside resorts, the Tower of London, farms and steam railways. Children enjoy cutting and sticking, making animals out of clay, and other various craft activities which help to promote their creative development. They have good access to books and often read stories together. The childminder asks questions about the characters in the books which encourages language and extends their vocabulary.

Children are learning about living things through making bird feeders and growing mustard and cress. They are developing a good understanding about different cultures and beliefs through books, discussions with the childminder and access to resources that promote positive images. They are able to construct and make models with a good variety of Lego, Duplo and bricks, and have access to a computer to increase their knowledge about everyday technology, although they have limited access to programmable toys to support their learning.

Children go on regular outings to parks for ball games and adventure playgrounds where they can use monkey bars, logs, a rope bridge and a long jump area to help develop their physical skills. Children eat healthy snacks and meals that help them understand foods that are good for them. They are gaining good social skills as they play together and have a good understanding about the importance of sharing and taking turns. Children are gaining good problem solving, reasoning and numeracy skills as they play board games, build train tracks, and say and use numbers in order in familiar contexts. Children are learning to keep themselves safe as they practise regular fire drills.

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?	2
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	2
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	2

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	2
How well are children helped to stay safe?	2
How well are children helped to be healthy?	2
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	2
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?	2

Any complaints about the inspection or report should be made following the procedures set out in the guidance available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Annex B: the Childcare Register

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

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

Annex C: complaint/s made to Ofsted

This section of the report includes details of any complaint/s made to Ofsted when:

- we took action for the provider to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- we asked the provider to take action in order to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register; or
- the provider had already taken any necessary action to meet the requirements of the Early Years Register.

We will not report on any complaint where the provider met the requirements of the Early Years Register or did not require any action by Ofsted or the registered provider.

Detail of the complaint/s

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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.