

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY350425
Inspection date	05/11/2008
Inspector	Helen Maria Steven
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 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 lives with her two children, aged 13 and four years. She was registered in May 2007. She resides in a two bed roomed flat on the first floor which is accessible by stairs. The children's bedroom and the living room are the main areas of the home used for childminding. The home is situated in the Harrow Road area in the City of Westminster. There are local parks, playgrounds, drop in groups and library within walking distance, which the childminder uses as part of her childminding day.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of two children in the early years age group. She currently has one child on roll. She is also registered on the compulsory and voluntary part of the Childcare Register. The childminder speaks Portuguese, English, some Hindi and Italian. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are cared for in a safe and stimulating environment where their welfare is promoted; this is as a result of the childminder's enthusiasm for providing good quality childcare. The childminder treats each child as an individual to ensure their needs are met effectively. Her commitment to ongoing training benefits the children as she continues to improve her knowledge and extend her skills, but her processes for self evaluation are not fully developed to enable her to identify strengths and weaknesses. The childminder has a very successful relationship with parents and they share information on children's welfare, learning and development both verbally and in writing.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- provide suitable equipment to enable children to eat safely and comfortably
- continue to develop the observation and assessment process

To fully meet the specific requirements of the EYFS, the registered person must:

- ensure that children's actual hours of attendance are recorded daily and develop the current system for risk assessing hazards with regard to outings and fire safety, ensuring that the record clearly states of when the assessment was carried out (Documentation)

05/12/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a desire and strong commitment to provide a good quality childcare service. She demonstrates a developing understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage, (EYFS) and has attended courses focusing on different areas. She is currently underpinning her knowledge by completing an NVQ2 qualification. Children are safeguarded as the childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. During discussion the childminder reflects on her practice objectively, however, her written self evaluation does not to identify how she can improve the quality of provision for all children.

A detailed diary provides a written two-way flow of information and parents state that they are given 'every single detail' of their child's day and care. Parents report that they are very happy and their children and make good progress. The childminder has adopted clear written policies and procedures to support her practice and has all relevant documentation in place. However, she has misunderstood the purpose of the attendance register and only contractual times are recorded, not actual hours of attendance in line with requirements. The childminder talks to children about safety to help them keep themselves safe and has conducted a risk assessment to minimise any hazards. The system has yet to be developed to include adequate detail for each type of outing, fire safety and a date of when the assessment was carried out. She has obtained a stimulating range of good quality resources which are well organised enabling children to self select. Children currently sit on the floor or on the childminder's lap to feed as at present there is no suitable furniture/equipment.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are happy and enjoy their time with the childminder because they are cared for in a safe and stimulating environment where their welfare is promoted. Children learn how to keep themselves safe; they are aware that hot water comes from the taps and look for assurance from the childminder before touching. They keep themselves healthy; for example, young children know not to use cutlery that has dropped on the floor and say 'yuk' to indicate their understanding of this. Children benefit from home cooked healthy food provided by the childminder, and regular trips to the local park affords the children fresh air and exercise. Children's safety and independence at mealtimes is not sufficiently promoted. She has not yet updated the contents of her first aid box, in line with guidance given at her training.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities and opportunities to enable them make good progress across all six areas of learning. Their progress is recorded in their daily diaries, but this is not monitored to ensure that all areas are assessed. Photos that evidence children's activities do not always accurately reflect the dated observations they illustrate. The childminder knows the children well and follows their lead when planning activities and experiences that extend their learning. Young children investigate and manipulate objects, such as, balls which they post into a toy and predict where they will come out. They explore natural objects and

insects, such as, ladybirds during visits to the local parks. Children attend a local drop in group which enables them to absorb information about their diverse local community.

Children become skilful communicators and initiate conversations, making their thoughts known to the childminder and other adults. The childminder uses children's home language when appropriate, for example, when sharing books with them. They show excellent progress in numeracy and are encouraged to solve problems by the childminder who skilfully offers strategies and suggestions enabling the children to feel a huge sense of achievement. Children behave well because of the respect shown to them by the childminder who is calm in her approach.

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?	3
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?	3
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 registration.

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.