

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY364188
Inspection date	09/12/2008
Inspector	Deborah Jane Orchard
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 was registered in 2007. She lives in Brentford in the London Borough of Hounslow with her husband and four children, two are aged 11 and a 14 and 16 year old. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. The childminder employs an assistant and can care for a maximum of seven children: of these no more than five can be under five years: and of these; not more than one may be under one year at any one time, when working with an assistant. There are currently four children on roll all of whom are on the Early years register. The family has a cat and a dog. The whole of the ground floor is available for childminding, in addition there are two bedrooms available on the first floor for sleeping only. There is an enclosed outside area available. There are steps up to the main entrance of the premises, a ramp will be provided if required. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the Voluntary and Compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder holds Early years qualifications, which include a Diploma in pre-school practice, National vocational qualification level three in Early Years and Education and a Professional practice certificate as a specialist teacher assistant.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are secure and happy in the childminder's home. They benefit from the warm and caring relationships they share with the childminder and her assistant. The children are recognised as individuals and have a fabulous time participating in well planned and fun activities. The childminder has a sound understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage and is currently using self evaluation to strengthen her service.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- strengthen systems for obtaining information regarding children's starting points and reporting children's progress and achievements
- keep a record of the risk assessments being carried out and when these have been checked

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder and assistant are effectively meeting the needs of all the children in their care. They provide a stimulating and warm environment and are committed to ensuring that the service is inclusive for all families. They know the children well and plan accordingly to ensure they progress in all areas of their learning and development. Information is shared with parents, regarding children's daily routines, although, there is less focus on sharing of information regarding children's individual learning.

The childminder has in place most of the required policies, procedures and records. Although regular risk assessments have been carried out and the childminder is able to identify and minimise any potential hazards, there are currently no records of these checks kept. The childminder has a clear understanding of child protection issues and is aware of the procedures to follow if she had concerns about a child. She ensures adults in the home are vetted and that children are closely supervised at all times. The childminder enhances her knowledge by attending training sessions, she keeps up to date by reading relevant childcare publications. The childminder is using a self assessment record to help identify the setting's key strengths and areas in which she wishes to strengthen her service. The childminder values parents' comments and uses questionnaires to establish their views and plans to incorporate these, when identifying ways to enhance the service she provides.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are provided with a wealth of fun and stimulating opportunities. A variety of age appropriate toys are stored at an accessible level for children. A range of suitable furniture and equipment allows children to eat, play and sleep comfortably and safely. Children spend their time purposefully, fully engaged in the activities on offer. The childminder and her assistant provide focused activities, as well as allowing children time to make their own choices. The younger children squeal with delight as they shake musical instruments, march and clap in the spacious environment. They are happy and secure, confident to explore the childminder's home. For example, toddlers begin to crawl through the pop up tunnel, whilst receiving words of reassurance from the adults supporting them. The childminder observes the children and incorporates the next steps of their individual learning into her plans. This helps to ensure they make progress and receive sufficient challenge. Adults support children well, they sit on the floor and talk to them about waiting and taking turns during snack time. This helps children develop patterns of positive behaviour. They extend children's language by asking open questions as they engage in conversation. Younger children are engrossed as the childminder uses a puppet to call their names during their morning circle time. There are opportunities for mark making as the younger children enjoy using the chalk and easel, adults praise them and reinforce their learning by discussing the different colours they have chosen to use.

Children benefit from a healthy diet as they enjoy sitting together eating homemade soup and bread. Younger children are being offered appropriate levels of support as they master their skills in self feeding. They develop their fine muscle movements as they pick up raisins during snack time. Babies enjoy their bottles as they snuggle up comfortably with the childminder. They have regular opportunities to go to the park and play in the outdoor area. Children learn the importance of good hygiene as they are supported in washing their hands and drying them using their own towels. Children learn to stay safe as they are reminded to be gentle with each other during play.

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?	1
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
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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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.