

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY330226
Inspection date	25/11/2008
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 was registered in February 2006 and currently cares for children alongside another registered childminder. She lives in a two bedroom house in the City of Westminster. The living room and bedrooms are the main areas used for childminding, with toilet and kitchen facilities available. There is an enclosed outdoor play area to the front of the premises and children are taken to local parks and drop in groups.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of six children under eight years. She currently has three children on roll in the early years age range. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory part of the Childcare Register. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder effectively works in partnership with parents to ensure that children's welfare is supported. The childminder has a comprehensive knowledge of children's individual needs; however she is yet to develop systems for observing and planning for the children's learning. She has a commitment to undertake training, but has yet to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and reflect on her practice to identify the setting's strengths and priorities for development in order to improve the quality of provision for all children.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- promote the good health of the children by encouraging them to hand washing prior to handling food
- develop the behaviour management process to ensure that children are consistently informed as to why behaviour is unwanted
- develop the process of self-evaluation to identify strengths and areas for development that will improve the quality of provision for all children
- devise an effective system for the assessing and evaluating children's progress in order to inform the next stage of their learning

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

- obtain parental permission to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future (Safeguarding and welfare) 05/01/2009
- develop the system for conducting risk assessments, including one for each type of outing carried out, review regularly and record when and by whom the aspects have been checked and improve children's safety by addressing the identified hazards 05/01/2009

(Safeguarding and welfare)

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The provider works alongside another registered childminder and as a result the children in her care have the support of another adult and enjoy the company of other children. Each childminder is the key person for specific children, although both impact on the care, learning and welfare of the children at the setting. The childminder has attended a training course on the Early Years Foundation Stage, but reports that she has yet to implement this and lacks confidence in her own abilities. She is in the process of seeking further advice from her local authority. The childminder has not developed her understanding of self-evaluation to identify the setting's strengths and priorities for development that will improve the quality of provision for all children. Through discussion she identified areas for improvement and has a positive attitude to training to bring about improvement to benefit all children.

Children are safeguarded as all adults have criminal record bureau checks and the childminder retains detailed guidance to support her in her understanding of child protection. The childminder has undertaken and recorded a basic risk assessment; however she has not included outings and has overlooked some hazards. She has not recorded when and by whom they have been checked in line with regulation. For example, children resting on a bed in the bedroom can have access to hazardous substances in the upstairs bathroom and travel cots are placed close to storage heaters. The childminder has good relationships with parents and communicates both verbally and via daily diary. The childminder has no systems in place to liaise with other providers delivering the EYFS for the children to ensure progression and continuity of learning. She reports that she sometimes reads newsletters from other provisions to gather information. The documentation is generally well organised and the majority of information required for children's welfare is in place; however consent for emergency medical treatment is not obtained in line with regulation and some records, such as accident reports do not afford confidentiality and only include first names.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy a range of activities both inside and outside the home. Activities generally support children's development in all areas of learning, for example, young children skilfully build towers from construction toys and relish using boxes and cardboard tubes for exploration and role play. Children greet their peers warmly when they arrive at the setting, giving all a sense of belonging. Their home languages are respected and key words assist adults to communicate with children. Outings to local parks, drop in groups and soft play provisions enhance children's physical development and enable them to develop an awareness of their local diverse community. Their independence is supported as they undress and dress themselves and take their shoes out to the hallway to store with their coats. Observations are in their infancy and at present mostly narrative. Currently they do

not link to the areas of learning and the childminder has not fully developed the systems in place to influence planning to meet children's developmental needs. Resources are stored in the hallway and children are able to access them, asking for support if needed. The childminder offers suggestions as to what they might like to play with and children routinely help with putting away toys when they have finished playing.

Children benefit from healthy snacks and meals as the childminder works in partnership with parents to nourish the children. Their dietary needs are known by the childminder and are supported. Children behave well in line with their stage of development and are encouraged in learning to share. They show concern when younger children cry. The childminder has various methods of dealing with unwanted behaviour which are successful and enable children to develop an understanding as to why the behaviour is unacceptable; however, this is not consistent. Children are prompted to hand wash after using the toilet as the childminder has visual reminders for them and provides attractive soap and a step for comfort. However, the daily routine does not include hand washing prior to handling food thus children do not develop good hygiene practices to prevent spread of infection.

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?	3
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?	3
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?	3
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	3
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	3
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	3

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

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.