

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY341042
Inspection date	09/12/2008
Inspector	Gulnaz Hassan
Type of setting	Childcare on domestic premises

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 setting

The childminder registered in 2006. She works with another childminder and an assistant and looks after children at her co-minder's home. The premises consist of a two bedroom ground floor flat situated in Tottenham, in the London Borough of Haringey. Members of the household include the co-minder's two children and her husband. The play room, sitting room and one bedroom are available for childminding purposes and all areas are easily accessible. A fully enclosed garden is available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight years at any one time, three of whom may be in the early years age group. When working with another childminder and an assistant, she is registered to look after nine children, of whom six may be in the early years age group. There are currently eight children in the early years age group on roll. The childminder is also registered on the compulsory part of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder is generally effective in meeting the needs of children in the early years age group. Inclusive practice is satisfactory. Children are supported in learning about diversity generally, although there is less focus on their own individual backgrounds. The capacity of the childminder to maintain continuous improvement is satisfactory and she is positive about implementing improvements. During this inspection a breach of condition was identified. However, as the childminder has taken positive action to rectify the breach and because the breach does not have a major impact on the care of children, Ofsted will not on this occasion take enforcement action. In addition, a breach of regulation in respect of the attendance register was identified.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- ensure that water is easily accessible and available to children at all times
- continue to develop the systems of assessment to include planning for the next steps in children's development
- promote children's understanding of diversity through activities and experiences that encourage children to talk about, value and develop an understanding of their own and other cultures, religions and backgrounds

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

- ensure that the attendance of children is accurately and promptly recorded (Organisation)

31/12/2008

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Some aspects of organisation require improvement. For instance, a breach of condition was not noted by the childminder and this has resulted in over minding of children on one day a week. In addition, the attendance register is not always completed on a daily basis. This means that the record of children's attendance can not always be verified.

The systems for self-evaluation are not fully in place and are not effective in identifying key areas of the provision requiring improvement. However, the prompt and positive response by the childminder as a result of the inspection is indicative of her intention to secure future development and improvement.

The systems in place for safeguarding children are generally effective. For instance, the childminder is well informed in respect of child protection issues and she is clear about her responsibility to protect children. There are good risk assessments in place that include rigorous outdoor safety; these involve checking local play parks and children's drop-in centres for safety. Some of the record keeping is inappropriate and does not fully support confidentiality, for instance, incidents of misbehaviour are recorded in scrapbooks of children's work. The organisation of the provision is not fully effective in ensuring that the childminder is fully aware of what documentation and records, such as social services contact numbers and medication consent forms, she has available.

Partnerships with parents and carers are satisfactory. Information about children's care needs is exchanged on a daily basis and parents are provided with good quality information about the provision itself. Parents are less well informed about their children's learning and development, as observations and progress records are only shared with parents once every three months. Although the childminder knows children and their families well, parents are not encouraged to share what they know about their children, for instance, in regard to the children's capabilities, home interests and starting points, to further support children's learning and development.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder supports children's learning well. This is because she has a generally good understanding of the learning and development requirements. Children enjoy purposeful play throughout the day, with an adult-led activity planned into the daily routine. Alongside the ongoing child-led activities, children enjoy practical experiences such as baking, cutting fruit and laying the table, with children taking it in turns to be 'helpers'. Some areas of learning, such as Communication, Language and Literacy, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Creative Development and Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy, are well promoted. For instance, children enjoy plenty of story telling and singing sessions and activities with puzzles to support shape and space awareness. Children enjoy mixing up their own cornflour mixture and then investigating the properties of this mixture. Other areas of learning, such as

Knowledge and Understanding of the World and access to physical and outdoor play, are less well supported. Observations of children are clearly linked to the areas of learning and effectively demonstrate the level of children's achievements and their developmental progress. There is less emphasis on planning for the next steps in children's progress, although there are moments of individual support from the childminder during play and learning. The childminder promotes some aspects of diversity and this is reflected in the resources and visual objects available. The childminder engages in discussions with children about differences, but there is less focus on promoting the children's own individual backgrounds.

Children's good health is generally very well promoted. For instance, there are very good hygiene procedures in place, which ensure that the premises, toys and bedding are clean, and nappy changing procedures are rigorous. Children are effectively encouraged to develop good habits, independence and self help skills that complement the very good health procedures in place. Children enjoy a range of healthy home cooked meals and snacks, but drinks of water are not easily accessible other than at set times throughout the day. This means that children are not able to help themselves to drinks. Children's safety is well supported and the premises are secure and well equipped. Children's safety is further promoted by good emergency evacuation plans, which are practised with children on a weekly basis. Incidents of misbehaviour between children, such as hitting and snatching, are managed positively by the childminder, who avoids focusing on negative behaviour and discusses feelings and the needs of others with the children.

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?	2
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	3
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?	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.