

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY351094
Inspection date	21/10/2008
Inspector	Patricia Ann Edward

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 has been registered since 2006. She lives with her three children, one of who is a dependent. The family live in a house in Battersea, located in the London borough of Wandsworth. The whole of the ground floor and the first floor bedroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed small back garden available for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for four children and there are currently two children on roll, one of whom is on the Early Years Register. The childminder also makes provision for children older than the early years age group and is registered on the voluntary and compulsory parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The children are happy in the care of the childminder who creates a welcoming environment. She knows the children well and supports inclusive practice by gathering useful information about their specific requirements at the start of the placement. Children make satisfactory progress in their learning and development. The childminder recognises that her ongoing knowledge and understanding of risk assessment and the Early Years Foundation Stage are key areas for her personal development. She is also aware that the system for self-evaluation needs to be more effective, to ensure she is able to identify future development of her practice and service.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- increase knowledge and understanding of Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage regarding the use of observations and assessments, involving parents, to assist in planning for next steps in children's learning and development
- increase children's resources and opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of the wider world
- ensure written consent is obtained from all parents for seeking emergency medical treatment
- carry out regular evacuation drills and record details in a fire log book of any problems encountered and how they were resolved
- extend the record of the risk assessment to include outings and all areas of the premises, in particular the garden area, and clearly state when it was carried out, date of review and any action taken following a review or incident
- ensure consent for outings and using public transport is obtained from parents.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children show a strong sense of belonging as they are warmly welcomed and relate well to the childminder. They are treated with equal concern, which ensures that individual needs are catered for in accordance with parents' wishes. Children are beginning to be aware of others and to appreciate individual similarities and differences. Resources that reflect positive images of equality and diversity and also children's opportunities to develop their knowledge of various cultural and religious festivals are limited. However, children's awareness of the local environment is promoted well through regular outings and visits in the local community to drop-ins and local parks.

Children are cared for in a clean and safe environment where effective measures are taken to protect them from the spread of infection and keep them secure. Records clearly indicate dietary requirements for each child. The childminder verbally demonstrates an understanding of the importance of providing children with healthy, nutritious and well balanced, home cooked foods. This encourages children to make healthy food choices and to develop a good knowledge of healthy eating options. Parents of children under one are responsible for providing meals until children are fully weaned. The childminder organises her home environment and daily routines to ensure children have access to maximum space. This enables them to move around freely and rest in a noise free environment. Children have access to a small outdoor play area and there is an adequate range of quality resources and equipment for children, which are age and developmentally appropriate. The childminder risk assesses her resources regularly to ensure that they are appropriately safe for them.

The majority of records, policies and procedures are in place and are maintained to an appropriate standard. However, not all parents have given written consent to seek emergency medical treatment or consent for outings, which means not all children's welfare and safety is fully protected. The childminder has an adequate knowledge and understanding of the regulations contained within the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. Basic risk assessments are completed, however, they are not completed on the garden area or on outings to places that children regularly frequent. Children's safety in the event of an emergency is adequately protected because the childminder has devised a written procedure and appropriate fire fighting equipment is in place. However, the procedures are not practised with the children, which means they are not able to develop their understanding of how to evacuate the premises in the event of an emergency. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has an understanding of her role and responsibility regarding child protection. She has a secure knowledge of the signs and categories of neglect and abuse and the procedures to follow if she has a concern about a child's welfare.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder provides an inclusive service and children's individual welfare, learning and development needs are appropriately catered for. The childminder

takes into account the children's individual interests when organising her activities. She ensures the required information is gathered from the parents on a daily basis to enable her to plan appropriate opportunities and care for children. For example, the parents of her youngest minded child have informed her that she is babbling a lot. With this information the childminder ensures she provides activities and opportunities to develop the minded child's abilities as a skilful communicator. These activities include attending singing sessions at local groups, reading stories and consistent communication. During activities the children are given good support and the childminder talks about what they are doing. She is sensitive and the children benefit from lots of positive praise and attention, which successfully increases their confidence and sense of self-worth. The childminder supervises the children effectively and offers support and guidance in relation to using equipment and toys with care to avoid accidents and injuries. Younger children and babies increase their strength and mobility through using clean and well maintained equipment, such as baby walkers and an interesting range of push and pull toys. This increases their exploratory impulses as they move around the environment developing curiosity and taking pleasure from their increasing independence.

The childminder understands the importance of children learning through play and is becoming familiar with the early learning goals and the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. She completes written observations on the children as they play and makes clear judgements of what they can do and areas that need development. Written planning is in the early stages as the childminder has not completed any formal training provided by the local authority to develop her knowledge and understanding in this area. Currently, observations and assessments are not shared with parents, which prevents them from fully assisting in planning for the next steps in children's learning and development. Children are able to make some choices about their play, as there is a selection that is easily accessible to promote independence. These are sufficient to promote most aspects of their learning. Children under two have access to furniture that supports their care needs, such as a highchair and a travel cot. However, there are insufficient resources and opportunities to help children gain an understanding about the wider world.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

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

Leadership and management

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

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	Satisfactory
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to stay safe?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to be healthy?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	Satisfactory
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	Satisfactory

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: Not Met (with actions)

The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are: Not Met (with actions)

The registered provider does not meet the requirements of the compulsory and or voluntary part/s of the Childcare Register.

To comply with the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- devise and implement an appropriate written statement of procedures to be followed to safeguard children being cared for from abuse or neglect and of which is put into practice and shared with parents and carers. (Applies to the childcare Register) 04/11/2008

To comply with the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register, the registered person must take the following action/s by the specified date:

- devise and implement an appropriate written statement of procedures to be followed to safeguard children being cared for from abuse or neglect and of which is put into practice and shared with parents and carers. (Applies to the voluntary Childcare Register) 04/11/2008

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.