

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY358682
Inspection date	16/12/2008
Inspector	Jennifer Devine
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 with her partner and one child aged three years in Willesden, in the London borough of Brent. The living room and one bedroom in the ground floor flat are used for childminding. There is an enclosed outdoor play area. The childminder may care for a maximum of four children under eight years and is currently minding two children in the early years age range. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register, the compulsory part of the Childcare Register and the voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children benefit from the warm and affectionate care the childminder provides. This ensures that children feel secure and comfortable to explore their environment and make good progress in their development. An inclusive and welcoming service is provided to the children. The childminder works in close partnership with parents to ensure individual routines and needs of children are met. The childminder has a good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and through self-evaluating her practices she recognises areas for continuous improvements to enhance the good practices already in place.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop knowledge of observation and assessment methods to effectively plan for individual children's learning needs
- continue to develop ways of including parents in their child's learning journeys

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder has a good understanding of promoting the welfare and learning of children in her care. As a result, children are settled and making good progress in their development. The childminder has attended training on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and has adapted her practice in line with this. The childminder understands the importance of evaluating her provision which has ensured she has made continuous improvements since registration.

Children's safety is paramount to the childminder. Detailed risk assessments are carried out and records maintained on all areas within the home and when outdoors. The childminder is secure in her understanding of safeguarding and knows the procedures to follow if she was concerned about child abuse.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children's learning is well supported because the childminder provides a good range of activities which help them to progress in all areas of their development. They have very good opportunities to experience the outdoors everyday as the childminder fully understands the benefits of outdoor play. They visit local parks where they learn about how to use the playground equipment safely and enjoy visits to local children's centres where they can socialise with other children and become involved in a variety of interesting activities. The childminder spends time sitting with the children in the home encouraging their learning and development. There is ample space in the home for the children to move around freely and explore their surroundings. Toys are placed within easy reach to enable children to make choices about their play. Books are stored at a low level enabling the youngest children to discover these and develop a love for books. Young toddlers find the books and sit down to look at them. They are beginning to develop an understanding on turning the pages and begin to make sounds as they recognise familiar pictures. The childminder supports this interest by providing story sacks with puppets and uses these extremely well whilst reading. Children enjoy the story 'The hungry caterpillar' and use puppets and props to tell the story. The childminder reinforces positive behaviour, also using a puppet to talk and gently remind children about caring, sharing and being kind to each other.

The childminder has developed effective systems for observing and assessing children's development and records this in the children's portfolios. She has an understanding of planning play opportunities but this is in early stages and is not fully linked to individual children's needs and interests. Parents are kept well informed about their child's day through the use of daily diaries and verbal communication. Although parents can view their child's portfolios any time the childminder has not fully involved them in their child's learning journeys and continues to enhance ways of working together.

Children are provided with healthy home cooked foods which take into account their individual dietary needs. They are offered snacks such as fruit or rice cakes and drinks are always available. The home is clean and hygienic and the childminder ensures the risk of cross-infection is minimised, such as by children having their own individual hand towels to use.

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?	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
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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

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted.

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.