

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	138939
Inspection date	24/11/2008
Inspector	Victoria Vasiliadis
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 1995. She lives with her husband and two children aged fourteen and eleven years. They live in a residential area of Ruislip in the borough of Hillingdon. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. Childminding takes place in the downstairs of the home which is all on one level and there is a downstairs toilet available. In addition there is a ramp leading from the outside area into the garden.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding five children under eight years, of these, four children are within the early years age group. Children attend on a part-time basis, term time only. The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and the compulsory and voluntary part of the Childcare Register.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The children are making progress in their learning and development as a result of the opportunities and experiences the childminder provides for them. Children are kept safe and their welfare promoted as the childminder has taken appropriate action to address potential hazards in the home and has the necessary documentation in place to support her practice. The childminder has a clear understanding of how to promote an inclusive environment for the children in her care and has effective systems in place to share information with parents, carers and others.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- develop the observation and assessment processes to ensure that the next steps in children's learning are used effectively to enhance the learning opportunities and experiences for children.

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's welfare and safety is promoted as the childminder has the necessary documentation and procedures in place to support practice. For example, effective risk assessments are implemented which identify and reduce potential hazards to children. For example, safety gates restrict children's access to the stairs and hazardous materials have been made inaccessible to children. In addition, the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues and what to do if concerned a child is being harmed.

The childminder has begun to monitor and evaluate her practice. She has made use of self-evaluation to effectively identify her own strengths and areas for improvement and has taken positive action to address these issues. For instance, she has attended several training sessions and workshops organised by the local authority in order to develop her knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage. In addition, the childminder has addressed previous recommendations from her last inspection, improving children's access to resources that reflect diversity and improving links to parents.

The children benefit from the good links the childminder has with parents, carers and other professionals involved in the care of the child. The childminder shares information with parents verbally on a daily basis and has made links with the local nursery school in order to share information about the children's development. Furthermore, parents are encouraged to share what they know about their own child, particularly when the child first starts to attend. This ensures starting points are identified early and children's individual needs met.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The children are making progress towards the early learning goals as they are provided with activities and resources that support their learning. The childminder has recently started to conduct observations on the children's progress and has identified the next steps in their learning. However, information gathered from observations are not effectively linked to planning.

Children are involved and engaged in the activities provided. For example, the children sit for extended periods of time completing puzzles of varying degrees and enjoy playing with the cars and garage. In addition, the environment is suitably organised to support children's learning and development. For example, the children are able to make choices in their play as resources are stored on tables, the floor and in low-level shelving units which are easily accessible to the children.

Children are included and valued as the childminder has a clear understanding of how to promote inclusive practice. She is aware of the children's individual needs and ensures that all children have access to resources and activities that are age appropriate and specific for their levels of understanding. If necessary she will adapt activities according to the child's ability to ensure that they are not presented with activities that are beyond their capabilities. The childminder is aware of the importance of working with parents, carers and others if concerned about a child's development.

Children are learning about being healthy and staying safe. This is as a result of the conversations the childminder has with the children. For example, when she is out with the children, she talks to them about not running off and why and they are encouraged to hold her hand or onto the buggy. In addition, the children in the early years age group are beginning to learn about daily hygiene practices as they are reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating.

Children are encouraged to develop positive habits and behaviour. For example, they are encouraged to share and take turns. The childminder manages children's behaviour appropriately as she praises children for their achievements and efforts and quickly resolves potential conflicts. Furthermore, she has a clearly written statement in place that she shares with parents and carers, in order to ensure continuity.

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 the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to comply with the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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.