

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	138622
Inspection date	17/12/2008
Inspector	Susan Elizabeth Tovey
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 has been registered since 1993. She lives with her husband in Cowley in the London Borough of Hillingdon. Children have access to all areas of the premises, with the exception of the large back bedroom. A fully enclosed garden is available for outdoor play. There is one step at the entrance to the premises.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight at any one time. The childminder is currently caring for one child within the early years age range and two older children.

The childminder is able to take children to and collect them from Cowley Infant School and St. Lawrence's Primary School. She has a rabbit as a pet.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is satisfactory. Children are secure and happy in a warm, welcoming environment. The childminder recognises their individual needs and provides a service which helps towards supporting their learning and development in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Although, the systems for monitoring their progress and achievements are not yet sufficiently well developed. The childminder has started to informally evaluate her service to identify areas for development and has considered how these will benefit children and improve outcomes.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- strengthen the systems for observing and assessing children to help identify the next steps in children's individual learning and building on their starting points

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder organises those areas of her home used for minding appropriately to ensure children can sit and play in comfort and move around freely. They have access to good quality toys, which are suitable for their ages and stages of development. The childminder responds positively to requests for favourite resources, which helps to ensure children remain occupied. The childminder provides a supportive service to children and their families.

The partnership with parents enables the childminder to provide a caring environment for their individual needs making children feel safe and secure.

Parents are regularly updated about their children's development both verbally and by means of a daily diary. They are continually supported by the childminder. For example, she gives advice on toilet training and routines. Written feedback received from parents is very positive about the care their children receive.

Children are safeguarded because the childminder has a secure understanding of child protection issues and her responsibility to report any concerns she may have. Although, she does not have a written child protection statement. The childminder's documentation relating to the children meets the required standards. She displays her certificate of registration, public liability insurance and her first aid certificate. Accidents to the children are well recorded and the information is shared with parents, which supports children's welfare. The childminder has an effective risk assessment system in place for her home and outings, which safeguards children.

The childminder has not yet developed a formal system to evaluate her practice, although she has some awareness of her strengths and areas for development. She has completed the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) training course and maintains a certificate in first aid. However, the childminder has not yet put her training fully into practice and therefore the implementation of the learning and development requirements need further development. The recommendation set at the last inspection with regard to improve the range of resources and activities that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice has been fully addressed.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

The childminder has sufficient understanding of the EYFS framework and guidance, allowing her to take positive steps to implement this within her practice. Observations are in their infancy, the childminder carries out written observations on each child. She is aware of children's individual interests and considers these when planning any activities. However, information of children's starting points has not been obtained and the systems for observing and assessing children to ensure they make progress are not yet fully established.

Children relax and enjoy themselves in the childminder's care. They have freedom to choose what they do as the childminder caters for their interests and preferences. She also takes account of what children are learning at playgroup. For instance, the colour and shape of the week and supports their learning of these. The childminder shows interest in what children do and say. She joins in with their play and asks relevant questions that encourage children to think; for example, as they play the fishing game and counting the stars threaded to make a necklace. Children have opportunities to explore creative materials such as drawing, cutting and sticking. They take part in a range of outdoor experiences, they dig and plant in the garden, visit the park to feed the ducks, go on a bus ride and visit the library. The childminder encourages children to learn about being respectful and considerate to others. She manages their behaviour using positive methods appropriate to their level of understanding. Praise and encouragement are also used to enable children to develop confidence and good self-esteem.

The childminder is safety conscious and has taken steps to eliminate all obvious hazards from her home and garden. Children learn how to keep themselves safe and the childminder reinforces this during outings. Children's health is promoted as they benefit from being offered a variety of nutritious foods. The childminder provides food in accordance with parents wishes and she is aware of children's dietary needs. She currently provides main meals for all children, which they all sit together to eat. They engage in conversation and the childminder encourages good table manners. Children are able to easily access drinks throughout the day to enable re-hydration. They learn about the benefits of exercise and fresh air as they walk to and from school and playgroup with the childminder and have opportunities to play in the garden and visit the nearby parks and playgrounds.

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?	2
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?	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:

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:

- develop a written statement of the procedures to be followed to safeguard children from abuse or neglect and share this with parents (Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare) 06/03/2009
- develop a written procedure for dealing with complaints and share this with parents (Documentation) 06/03/2009

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:

- take action as specified above. 06/03/2009

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 reported 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.