

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	136705
Inspection date	16/12/2008
Inspector	Christine Lynne Hodge
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).

Description of the childminding

The childminder has been registered since 1998. She lives with her partner and their three children aged six, 12 and 15 years. They live in an extended house situated in Orpington in the borough of Bromley. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register. She is registered to care for a maximum of three children in the early years age group and is currently caring for two children under five years on a part time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder's extremely professional approach to childminding ensures that she provides children with a stimulating environment that fully supports each child to make very good progress across all areas of learning and development. Children have access to an extensive range of resources and stimulating planned activities that are based on their likes, interests and individual needs. The childminder has very effective systems in place for tracking children's progress and ensures this information is regularly shared with parents. She has comprehensive policies and procedures that fully promote the welfare of children. The childminder makes extremely good use of self-evaluation to identify key strengths and areas for development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- further develop systems for finding out children's starting points

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder's home is very well organised and provides children with extensive space for indoor play. Children have very good opportunities to become independent and to make choices from a wide range of play resources and books which are very accessible. The childminder provides children with an excellent balance of child centred and adult led activities in the home and enables children to develop their knowledge of the wider community on regular outings. The childminder is committed to ensuring her service is inclusive for all families and that children are fully safeguarded, through comprehensive policies and procedures, rigorous and regular risk assessments and thorough emergency evacuation procedures. Parents are made to feel very welcome and are

encouraged to be actively involved in their children's care and learning. The childminder has developed an 'All About Me' form to help her gather information about children when they first start with her, although information relating to children's learning and development starting points is rather limited. Parents receive very good information about their children's care, progress and development through daily contact books, photographs, samples of children's work and verbal discussion.

The childminder is fully committed to continually improving her childcare knowledge and practice. Since her previous inspection she has completed the recommendations and has attended several training courses including a Cache Diploma at level 3 in Home Based Childcare, an up-to-date first aid course and Early Years Foundation Stage training. She has applied to attend a course on special needs and is hoping to start her National Vocational Qualification at level 3 in Childcare in the new year. The childminder has comprehensive systems in place to monitor and evaluate her practice and has identified several areas which she feels she wants to improve.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children are extremely well supported across all areas of their learning and development. The childminder uses observation and assessment very effectively to plan and implement a stimulating and varied range of activities that help children to develop skills and knowledge across the six areas of learning. Although flexible planning is based on children's individual likes, interests and needs the childminder adapts activities to ensure all children can take part. Her equal opportunity policy underpins her inclusive practice. Children take part in activities to help them learn about different festivals and cultures and have access to a good range of positive images, books and play resources. The childminder helps children to develop their language skills by talking and listening to them, reading stories and singing songs. She initiates conversations with children by asking open ended questions. Children have good opportunities for mark making and to become familiar with shapes, letters, colours and numbers. The childminder uses mathematical language in daily routines and on outings helps children to recognise numbers by pointing out house numbers and number plates. She provides children with many opportunities to develop their imaginations and creativity through activities such as role play and various arts and crafts. Children benefit from physical play in the well equipped garden and regular outings to the park, mini gym and childminding support group, where they enjoy socialising with other children. The childminder develops close relationships with children and spends lot of time interacting and playing with them. As a result children are happy, confident and eager to learn and engage in activities.

The childminder's comprehensive policies and procedures ensure that children's welfare is fully promoted. She is extremely clear about her role and responsibility for safeguarding children in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. Her home is very clean and secure with all necessary precautions in place, to minimise risks and keep children safe. The childminder has very good

procedures in place to prevent cross infection and ensures that children are provided with a healthy balanced diet.

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?	1
How well does the provision promote inclusive practice?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement.	1

Leadership and management

How effectively is provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage led and managed?	1
How effective is the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement?	1
How well does the setting work in partnership with parents and others?	1
How well are children safeguarded?	1

Quality and standards

How effectively are children in the Early Years Foundation Stage helped to learn and develop?	1
How effectively is the welfare of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage promoted?	1
How well are children helped to stay safe?	1
How well are children helped to be healthy?	1
How well are children helped to enjoy and achieve?	1
How well are children helped to make a positive contribution?	1
How well are children helped develop skills that will contribute to their future economic well-being?	1

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 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 the previous inspection.

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.