

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	138102
Inspection date	16/12/2008
Inspector	Patricia Ann Edward
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 1988. She lives with her co-minder and husband in the London borough of Merton. The whole of the ground floor and first floor bathroom are areas of the home used for childminding and an enclosed garden is available for out door play. The premises are accessible to people with limited mobility. She is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. When working with another childminder at the above premises, they may care for eight children. This provision is registered by Ofsted on the Early Years Register, the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and has completed the 'Children come first' Quality Assurance scheme. She also hold a NVQ level three and four childcare qualifications.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

The childminder effectively promotes children's welfare and learning and she provides a safe and inclusive environment. Very good systems are in place in relation to planning and assessment. The children are happily engaged and occupied in a broad range of stimulating play activities and experiences. There is a excellent working relationship with parents and they are kept well informed of their children's daily routines, care and learning. The childminder has developed effective systems in relation to self- evaluation and these help her to monitor the service she provides and to identify key strengths and areas for development.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- continue to develop the observation and assessments processes ensuring that they are clearly linked to planning which takes account of children's interests, learning styles and development and provides challenge across all areas of learning
- increase understanding of the exemption procedure for learning and development and ensure the learning programme fully meets the needs of the children attending after school

The leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder reflects on the service she offers and implements formal self-evaluation systems in order to reassess the service she provides. She reflects upon her practice and has a clear commitment to the further development of her service. She has completed additional courses, such as disability and equality and also first aid, to increase skills and update her knowledge. She has a good understanding of working in partnership with parents and involves them in her

evaluation process which ensures she continues to meet parents expectation's. She is developing a better understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework through training and workshops. The childminder has an in depth knowledge of each child's stage of development and individual needs. Currently no formal links have been established with schools where children on the Early Years Register attend full time. This is at the parents request. However, the childminder lacks knowledge of the formal exemption procedure that parents have to complete if they wish their child to be exempt from the Early Years Foundation Stage learning and development requirements.

Children benefit from excellent adult support as the childminder works closely with her co-minder. They organise regular meetings through out the year, which allows them to discuss issues such as children's needs, planning, revising policies and procedures. Records are well documented and clearly written policies and procedures are used in practice to effectively promote the health, safety and well-being of children. All are available for parents, upon request, to inform them of the service. Very exceptional steps are taken to safeguard children's welfare and the childminder has a very good understanding of safeguarding issues and procedures. Children have free, safe access to a excellent variety of play opportunities and resources, suitable for their stage of development. They are taught how to keep themselves safe, detailed and robust risk assessments are in place and advice has been sought from parents about how to support individual medical needs. Children's health is further protected because written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment is in place.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Children enjoy the stimulating, happy and child centred environment. They are fully engaged in interesting activities, such as porridge tasting, where they recollect the story of the three bears and discussed the size of the bowls. The children are developing a good understanding of how to keep themselves healthy and free from infection. They are beginning to learn the importance of preventing the spread of germs, through being encouraged to cover their mouth when they are coughing. The childminder also promotes good hygiene routines throughout the day, through hand washing before meals and snacks. She complements these through her own hygiene practices, such as cleaning tables before and after meals. Children enjoy regular exercise as they walk to and from school and enjoy time in the garden, playing with a excellent range of resources. Individual dietary needs are fully incorporated into the daily menus, providing suitable healthy and nutritious meals for all the children. The childminder ensures any food provided by parents is suitably stored and served appropriately. Children enjoy fresh and dried fruit on a daily basis.

Children play freely in the conservatory, they have good access to a excellent range of suitable toys that are age appropriate and sustain the children's interest. Opportunities are available for them to engage in meaningful role play. For example, they can prepare a meals in the activity kitchen microwave. Young children enjoy accessing books and having stories read to them, and know some of the stories well. The childminder is available to support their language

development by asking them questions and discussing the book with them. Children's basic starting points are identified at contract stage. Through regular observation of each child she is able to plan a stimulating adult led activity programme. She promotes children's learning and progress through encouraging and promoting free play, which focuses on their interest. Observation and next steps completed on children focus mainly on the physical, social, emotional, personal and creative development and does not yet fully encompass children's progress through all six areas of learning. Details of children's achievements are exchanged with their parents. The childminder has clear boundaries for children and uses discussion to allow children to think about right and wrong choices. Children are valued and encouraged. She ensures she incorporates children's individual routines into the planning to provide continuity of care for every child, for example, sleep and rest patterns.

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?	1

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?	1
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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last 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.