

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	402761
Inspection date	07/10/2008
Inspector	Chris Banks
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 1997. She lives in a three bedroom house in the E8 area of Hackney. A ground floor kitchen diner, first floor playroom and lounge are the main areas used for childminding purposes.

The childminder is registered on the Early Years Register and both the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and currently cares for one child in the early years age group on a full time basis. She also provides out of school care for one other child.

Overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Children are happy and secure with the childminder. She meets their individual needs well and works effectively with families to provide an inclusive service. Children's overall learning and development is suitably supported. Their progress is starting to be formally monitored in line with requirements of the new framework which govern the care and education of young children. The childminder demonstrates a commitment to further improvement. Since the last inspection there is a better understanding of regulatory requirements and improved arrangements for record keeping.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

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

- further extend the range and diversity of early learning toys and resources

The leadership and management of the early years provision

Children's overall health, safety and welfare is effectively safeguarded because the childminder takes good practical precautions to protect them both in and outside the home. Children play safely in the comfortable, bright first floor playroom and enjoy clean, cosy rest and sleep arrangements. Equipment and areas used by children are checked for safety before they arrive and during trips out, good road safety is practised and shared with children.

Children's daily routines are discussed in detail and agreed with parents in advance. They are flexible and take good account of children's eating and rest patterns. Outdoor play and exercise forms part of each day with visits to a range of play facilities in the local area. A well secured front garden also provides children with more immediate outdoor play opportunities as they practise their balancing skills using a range of wheeled toys.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding about her role and

responsibility in protecting children from possible abuse. She is well informed about the action to take should there be any concerns and has clear up to date written procedures to follow. Parents are also informed in writing about her duty to safeguard the welfare of children.

The childminder is well organised. Standards of record keeping have improved and all required information is now appropriately documented. She is able to effectively identify her strengths and weaknesses and has addressed the requirement to update her knowledge of first aid through retraining. She is motivated to further develop her understanding and learn more about how to monitor children's progress and is beginning to put suitable systems in place.

The quality and standards of the early years provision

Parents are closely consulted about the care of their children from the outset. They are positively encouraged to complete a recently introduced detailed questionnaire entitled 'all about your child'. Information is effectively then used by the childminder to help plan for children's long term care, learning and development. It also provides a valuable insight into what children enjoy and are already able to do when they join the childminder. As children settle, the childminder maintains reassuring telephone contact with parents.

Children are valued as individuals. The childminder treats them with respect and responds well to the needs of children from a range of backgrounds. She is familiar with children's special dietary requirements and preferences and also encourages children to try a range of different healthy foods with the permission of their parents.

Children's learning and development is suitably supported as they learn new skills. The childminder takes an active interest in what they are doing as she quietly intervenes to help children recognise letters, identify colours and learn to count. She is beginning to understand how different activities support particular areas of children's learning and is planning to undertake further training. Children's independence skills are well fostered. They are sensitively supported during toilet training and are helped to understand why personal hygiene is important.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder because she creates a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere in the home. She forms warm and caring attachments with the children she cares for many of whom stay in touch when they leave to go to school. They respond well to her and communicate freely and confidently as they play in the reasonably well equipped playroom. Toys and equipment are safe and of good quality but the range is quite limited and not yet sufficiently diverse for the age range the childminder is registered to care for.

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?	3
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?	3
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.